

THE PORT TOWNSEND CHURCH

TRANSFORMING CULTURE, FOSTERING GROWTH

NOV/DEC 2021 Vol.116, N°6



Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39



THE INFLUENCER LIFE

Changes in culture can result in positive or negative shifts. The culture in our churches and communities will change for better or worse depending on our choice. Will we work to effect change that draws people closer to Christ or push them further away. The choice is up to us. – JOHN FREEDMAN

> TRANSFORMING CULTURE, FOSTERING GROWTH

PORT TOWNSEND is home to a thriving ministry breaking down barriers and sharing God's unconditional love in surprising ways. The persistent pursuit of love and service to their surrounding community is fostering positive culture change inside and out.

NORTHWEST ADVENTIST NEWS



+ EDITORIAL

Since then, I have traveled to many countries. Each has a culture all its own. All are fascinating to explore and all have some aspects that are disquieting.

The Webster Dictionary defines the word "culture" as "the customary beliefs, social forms and material traits of a racial, religious or social group." In other words, the culture is made up of shared beliefs, social habits, values and character.

Culture varies from country to country and even varies in different regions within a country. I experienced this as an adolescent growing up in the Philadelphia metro area and then spending two summers in North Carolina.

The food was different, as was the way people sounded when they talked. Later in life, I discovered

that West Coast culture is different from culture on the East Coast. I found that the culture at Rutgers University was different from the culture at Andrews University Theological Seminary.

I've encountered all these different cultural experiences in the same country. All have been unsettling at first, yet all have enriched my life.

Recently, global news organizations have been highlighting world cultural shifts. Those caused by rapid change produce fear, rejection and the building of walls to keep out that which is feared. The fear of change pushes people to lash out in order to protect themselves. It

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I VISITED FRANCE AS A TEENAGER. IT WAS MY FIRST TASTE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY'S CULTURE. THE NEW LANGUAGE, FOODS, SIGHTS, SOUNDS, SMELLS AND SCHEDULES FASCINATED ME. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXPERIENCE WAS A LITTLE UNSETTLING. IMAGINE TRYING TO GET A HOT LOAF OF FRENCH BREAD WITHOUT SPEAKING FRENCH.

MISSION & OUTREACH



JOHN FREEDMAN North Pacific Union president

causes division, disunity and unhealthy use of force.

However, I've noticed that this negative downward spiral doesn't always have to occur. A cultural shift may also produce acceptance and growth when there is an intentional choice to act differently. I believe this choice for positive culture change is motivated by the love of God.

Just one example of this positive culture change are the churches and communities reaching out to displaced refugees. They come to our country with shattered dreams and nightmares of mistreatment. With few financial resources, health issues and limited English language skills, they need a helping hand.

Do we erect larger barriers to keep refugees out, ease our fear and quiet our conscience? Or do we offer a large dose of Godly hope? The culture in our churches and communities will change for better or worse depending on our choice. Providing hope does cost us valuable resources we could spend on ourselves. Yet, God promises to provide all the

resources we need when we reach out to make our Creator's world a better place.

Another example of positive culture change is the intentional work being done in some of our Northwest churches. More than 100 Northwest churches have chosen to address the needs of our youth and young adults who are drifting away from faith. "Growing Together" is an intentional look at the current culture of the participating churches. (Read more on page 24.)

Participating churches seek to discover what needs to be adjusted to make their culture more open and welcoming to all. This intentional culture change places a high value on retaining and involving youth and young adults. Fully participating churches have had positive results.

With the holidays approaching, I'd like to invite you to join me and do something significant. Team up with family members or friends. Ask God to share with you His vision of a positive culture change that can be made in your church or community. Partner with Christ to reach out in love and faith to enlarge the Kingdom of God.

If this invitation feels daunting, let me share a quick story. I pastored a church that struggled to raise enough money for their budget for almost a year. Leading up to the holidays, several members came to me requesting to fundraise for several worthy projects.

I hesitated at first because of the budget shortfall. Eventually, we moved forward in faith. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we presented the projects to the congregation. God blessed us not only with the resources to fund all the projects, but also enough to balance the church budget! This grew our faith and belief in the power of God and His willingness to bless us. Our culture shifted to seek out and meet needs, even when the means weren't immediately visible.

It is refreshing to live a life of faith and trust in God, reaching out in the love of Christ to enlarge His Kingdom. Scripture tells us that "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18, ESV). The challenge then is to reach out in the love of Christ and with full assurance in our faith. We have a Savior who will provide just what we need, when we need it.

Step out today and be an influencer for positive culture change. The Holy Spirit offers courage, "do not be afraid! Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you. He will be with you till the end."

JOHN FREEDMAN North Pacific Union president Copyright November/December 2021

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IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



'The Smiths" in Smith Rock, Oregon, by Vic Savage of Camas, Washington..





TRANSFORMING CULTURE, FOSTERING GROWTH

WHEN FRAN CAREY FIRST WALKED INTO THE PORT TOWNSEND CHURCH IN WASHINGTON, SHE HAD NO IDEA SHE

WAS AN ANSWER TO PRAYER.

Fran Carey, Port Townsend community services director, and Collette Pekar, Port Townsend pastor. The visible tattoos on both arms told a story. "I had a former life outside of church," said Fran. "I was a bartender, a biker, and at one time, I was also a truck driver."

Her practical, no-nonsense approach to ministry was immediately evident upon her arrival. "The day I walked into church it was a Sabbath morning. We had nobody standing at the door," said Fran. "I'd been here on vacation before, but it was my first day of actually being part of the church. I walked in and the very first thing I did was pick up some bulletins. These people didn't even know me, but I was standing at the door greeting because that's what God wanted me to do. I really feel that I've come to this church because God wanted me to be part of the ministry."

"We have about 125 members on our books," said Collette Pekar, Port Townsend Church pastor, "but we went through several years where legalism and judgment and people moving away brought our attendance way down. The church didn't always feel like a safe place."

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Fran Carey and a volunteer.

Two newly-baptized members wanted to know what they could do to help the struggling church grow. They talked with conference leaders and one said, "Pray."

So, the members started a prayer meeting and prayed for laborers for the harvest. Just a month or two later after they'd started praying, Fran moved to town.

The emphasis on prayer marked a turning point for the Port Townsend Church. In addition to Fran's arrival, something else began to happen. Members' warmth and interest in the community and the church itself began to grow. God was sending willing servants their way.

"One by one, new church members moved to our area," said Pastor Collette. "Without exception, those new members were committed to serving God and the community, and they chose to join our little church because they wanted to get active. By the time I became their pastor in February of 2016, God had really already started filling the church. It was really an answer to prayer. It wasn't [Fran or me] that did this thing – God did it."

As always, God's timing couldn't have been better. While no one knew it, the world was headed toward a pandemic.

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The Port Townsend Church was already preparing itself to be a light to their community.

"Before COVID, our attendance at the Port Townsend Church averaged about 50," said Pastor Collette. "There was a sense that God was blessing us, and whoever walked through the church door, whether they were Adventist or not, they were invited to get busy and work with us. They didn't get a chance to become what I call, 'pew potatoes.' I do a ministry placement interview with new members and I try to help them find the perfect niche in the right ministry. From day one, everyone knew this was a church where we work together and everyone counts."

When it comes to community connection, the Port Townsend Church has taken an immersive, cooperative role with their neighbors. Instead of relying solely on their members, they've partnered in a number of ways with others in their community. One of the ways they've collaborated is through their thrift store ministry.

Fortunately, a volunteer staff had already been established at the free store. It made the transition to the thrift store easier. Fran continued to grow the volunteer team. "I opened up the invitation to those outside the church," said Fran, "and pretty soon there was a mixture

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SERVICE IS MORE THAN HANDING OUT CLOTHES OR FOOD.

IT'S THAT EXTRA STEP OF REALLY THINKING ABOUT THE

WHOLE PACKAGE OF WHAT PEOPLE NEED AND

TRANSFORMING CULTURE

of community members, homeless and volunteers from other churches. Each one of them has a unique personality. ... We are really respectful of their beliefs. They don't have to be Adventist to serve here."

This distinction of serving with the community rather than doing things for the community should not be overlooked. Both Fran and Pastor Collette point to several ways God has led them to roll up their sleeves and minister alongside whoever He sends their way.

Building close working relationships as a church and thrift store starts with prayer. From those prayers, willing individuals show up. Pastor Collette knows

Fran encourages her thrift store volunteers to help customers in ways that go beyond a cash transaction.



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this is true whenever she watches Fran interacting with all who come through the thrift store doors.

"I've observed Fran in action many, many times," said Pastor Collette. "She knows every client's name. She greets them, each one, like they're long lost friends. If I'm in the store, she introduces every one of them to me."

Fran usually follows up her greeting by asking a question that relates to whatever it was that the person told her the last time she spoke with them. She remembers each of them and the challenges in their lives. She asks them, almost without exception, "What are you needing today?" The answer might not be clothes, shoes or household items. No matter what, she always asks that question. It gives them the freedom to talk about what their life is like.

In addition to listening, Fran models the important practice of observation. She keeps her eyes open, and when she sees a family that looks like they may not have enough money to pay, she just quietly tells them, "There's no charge today." If they're buying school clothes she'll say, "I see you're buying pants and a shirt, do you need shoes, too?" And with that question, she'll look at a child's feet and try to go find shoes that will fit.

Service is more than handing out clothes or food. It's that extra step of really thinking about the whole package of what people need and serving them like Jesus. This unconditional interest creates lasting bonds with people who walk through the thrift store doors. They know they are cared for and loved.

At first glance, it may seem like a thrift store is limited to a specific type of ministry by providing clothes and household items to those in need. However, a closer look at what's happening reveals that the thrift store is a starting place for ministry that spans many different directions and pockets in the community. It's a central hub for many other things.

One example of this is their partnership with the church's jail ministry.

"We lead two small groups at the jail every Sunday evening—one for the women and one for the men," said Pastor Collette. "When someone is just about ready to come out of jail, Glen, our jail ministry leader, lets the thrift store know ahead of time that they're coming. Often they've lost their housing. Many times their kids have been put into foster care. It's just really a hard time in their life."

Inmates reentering society are given a code phrase they can share at the thrift store to be given a voucher without question. It provides them chance to find what best fulfills their physical needs while restoring and preserving their dignity.

Fran works closely with those who have been previously incarcerated. In addition to helping them find clothing, she actively looks for other ways to help them get back on their feet. "I always advise people coming out of jail, and anyone else, that if they come into the thrift store and they volunteer, they can use me for a job reference," she said.

It isn't just the services offered that have changed and grown since the Port Townsend Church began investing in their thrift store ministry. Their methods for reaching the community and meeting their needs have grown, too. Pastor Collette shares a simple idea that has expanded the ways the thrift store ministers.

"One day last winter, I read an article in a healthy cooking magazine about a 'Little Pantry.' It's kind of like a 'Little Library,' but instead of putting books in a little bookshelf that's all glassed in to keep things dry, you put nonperishable food. I read that and I brought it to our board meeting, and two days later someone said that they had one! One of our church members had one already! She was going to do a little library, but she said, 'Let's put it up!' We [decided to] put it up in front of the thrift store and the deacons had it up within a week!"

TRANSFORMING CULTURE



AND SERVICE TO THEIR SURROUNDING COMMUNITY IS A

KEY LESSON THAT GOD MAY BE USING FROM THE PORT

TOWNSEND CHURCH TO INSPIRE EACH OF US TODAY.



Pastor Collette Pekar and Fran Carey show off the community cupboard that works like a neighborhood lending library. WATCH AN INTERVIEW WITH FRAN CAREY TO HEAR THE BEAUTIFUL WAY GOD IS AT WORK IN PORT TOWNSEND.



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"We filled it with food," said Fran, "and it started being used immediately. We fill it and people know it's there. But the best part about it is that, yes, we put food in it, but I've sat there in the store where I can see where it is out by the street, and our community is now putting the food into the pantry for other people in the community to be able to use. So it's not only us, it's also the community that's feeling part of the giving. It's exciting to be able to watch the community interacting with other parts of the community so that everybody is blessed."

Some may be wondering if there has been a culture shift in the process of growing the thrift store ministry and partnering with the community and, if so, what does that look like?

In Pastor Collette's view, a cultural change is something a church should work toward whether or not there are visitors. "If we get in the habit of talking down or bad about anybody, the chance of offending goes exponentially higher," she said.

But culture change isn't all about correcting behavior. "Both Fran and I like to watch for people who are being affirming and being welcoming," Pekar said, "and we try to affirm those people in our church family for helping us change the culture to become a welcoming place."

"Once in a while, one of our dear recovering legalist saints or members will say something offensive or judgmental in Sabbath School," said Pekar. "I systematically schedule a visit with them and try to recast a vision of a welcoming church."

Pastor Perkar encourages people to share when there has been a bridge

broken or heart hurt. It's an opportunity to make amends and to work together on the church culture. Each member plays a part as guardians of church culture. In the same way that Fran and her team guard the thrift store culture, church members can proactively look for ways to make each visitor feel welcome and loved.

Fran knows how difficult it can be to walk through the church doors from the outside. One of the ways she brings the thrift store community into closer contact with her church is by inviting them to potluck.

"I feel that a lot of the fear of coming into the church is not knowing who's there," said Fran. "By inviting them to a meal and inviting them to meet the people in the church, and realizing that these people are open and willing to interact with them, the fear of coming into the church is lessened. We have potluck twice a month and, if I see anyone who looks hungry, I invite them."

"I know from experience, coming into church is not always easy," Fran said. "I have been told many times that someone will come to church on Sabbath and they don't show up. But that's ok! Their heart was right, they wanted to come. But to actually be able to come through the door is not always the easiest thing to do."

"Years ago, when I got baptized, it was down in Texas," Fran recalls. "I asked my husband to come to my baptism. I went to church and I watched for him and watched for him, but he didn't come through. I was thinking, 'Why wouldn't he come for something as important as my baptism?' So I was getting ready to go home and when I got into my car, there on the steering wheel was a note. It said, 'I came, but I couldn't come through the door.' It meant so much to me that he tried to come. He was there and he tried. I know that it's a hard thing to do, so if someone doesn't show up, that's ok. It was in their heart that they wanted to and maybe someday they will."

The persistent pursuit of love and service to their surrounding community is a key lesson that God may be using from the Port Townsend Church to inspire each of us today. As Pastor Collette shared,



"Our love for these people is not dependent upon them coming to church and it's not dependent on them becoming Adventist. We just love them because they're God's children."

Across the Northwest, each of our churches, ministries and communities exist in different places with different needs and cultures. The story of God's work in the Port Townsend community is just one of the infinite stories we will learn more about as we someday get to pour through the records of Earth's history in heaven. Our great calling to minister to this world spans generations and countless circumstances, but is united in principle: sharing Jesus with our neighbors.

In Port Townsend, Jesus is being shared through a thrift store. Where is He being shared in your community? How can we continue to find places beyond our church walls to spread Jesus' love? What does that look like in your community?

Though the methods and needs may vary, we know we must do all we can to serve those in need. As James tells us, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead," (James 2:14–17, NIV).

KALEB EISELE

Journalist and content creator focusing on the life stories of Seventh-day Adventists

BRESHEGS WITH GOAT CHEESE AND DISTACHIOS

+

OUR TABLE

FOR MANY, FALL IS A FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR TO BE IN THE KITCHEN. IT'S THE SEASON FOR SOUPS AND STEWS TO WARM US DURING THE ONCOMING CHILL. IT'S ALSO A TIME FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO GATHER AND BRING JOY TO THE SHORTER, DARKER DAYS.

> This simple recipe highlights the flavors of fresh figs by serving them with tangy goat cheese, salty pistachios, sweet honey and balsamic vinegar, to add an extra burst of flavor. It's easy to make and can be a quick snack for either one person or for a party of 20.

INGREDIENTS

- » fresh black or brown figs
- » goat cheese
- » crushed, salted pistachios
- » balsamic vinegar
- » honey (optional)
- » fresh berries (optional)
- » salt to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Trim stems off figs and slice the figs in half lengthwise.
- 2. Arrange the figs on a serving tray.
- 3. Sprinkle crumbled goat cheese over the figs.
- 4. Drizzle balsamic vinegar and honey over the figs and goat cheese.
- 5. Sprinkle with pistachios and fresh berries.
- 6. Lightly sprinkle with salt if desired.
- 7. Serve immediately and enjoy!

RECIPE NOTES

If you follow a plant-based diet, you can leave off the goat cheese or make this alternative creamy nut spread. This recipe doesn't take much effort and is so tasty, robust and rich in flavor. To make, blend the following ingredients:

1/4 cup raw rehydrated macadamia nuts*

- 1/2 cup raw rehydrated cashews*
- 2 tbsp filtered water
- 1/2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 tbsp lemon juice
- Pinch of sea salt, to taste
- Optional: 1/2 tsp miso

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*To rehydrate nuts, soak in water overnight. If you'd like to speed the process up, cover nuts with water in a pot and bring to a boil for a few minutes. Simmer for another 15 minutes until tender. Rinse with cold water, drain, and you are ready to go!

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Join Northwest Adventists online. Discover daily inspiration and encouragement. Share in the conversation.

Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 6h - Q

Aren't you glad Christ's compassion are new every morning? Jesus lived a life of intercession and is the embodiment of compassion Join Craig Carr in praying about our Compassion Jesus. Reflect on God's merciful compassion in your life and then pray about how God wants you to showcase compassion in your life.



Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 4 September 16 at 2:34 PM - @

Northwest Adventists September 16 at 2:30 PM - Ø

Join the Urban Ministries Convention Happening Today



CROSSWALK Welcome to the Urban Ministries Convention JOURNEY TO WHOLENESS FACILITATOR TRAINING

Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists mber 24 at 7:01 PM - 0



Boise Valley Adventist School September 24 at 12:22 PM - @ It was a great turn out! Thank you all for your support! Here are a few pictures from the carnival

14:48

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 4 er 5 at 3:27 PM - Ø

(2 / 2) "There was a book I read called, 'The Cure: What if God Isn't Who You Think He is and Neither are You?' I remember that as I was reading it, it rocked my whole vision about God and how He saw me and who He was. At first I was concerned about the theology like, What if I'm way off? So I sent it to every pastor and theologian that I felt connected to and I asked them to read it to see if the theo logy was solid. And, of course, half of them didn't read it because they See More



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MISSION & OUTREACH

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Young Boy Steps Up to Lead

WHILE CONGREGATIONS HAVE BEGUN REORGANIZING AND IDENTIFYING VOLUNTEERS TO COVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES, FINDING MEMBERS WILLING TO COLLABORATE HAS BECOME A CHALLENGE, ESPECIALLY FOR PASTORS.

My wife and I saw this firsthand on a recent church visit. Because many of the congregations we visit invite me to preach, I'm usually prepared. But this time, I felt strongly that I should *not* accept if I were invited to speak.

We were cordially welcomed when we entered the church. Immediately, one of the members asked, "Pastor, since you are here, would you like to preach?"

There was a well-dressed man standing nearby. I asked him if he was the appointed preacher that day. He said that he was, and then asked me if I wanted to preach. Again, I felt the same impression and encouraged him to go forward with his planned sermon.

During his sermon, Rodolfo Carrillo mentioned that his brother and sister-inlaw were visiting from out of town and had come to hear him preach. I also learned that the congregation had asked Rodolfo to come that day to preach. I was extremely happy to know that it wasn't merely a human impulse that had directed me to not accept the preaching invitation.

The Spirit moved during Rodolfo's inspirational sermon. The Spirit had clearly arranged for *all* of the events of that morning.

After the service, I overheard Rodolfo thank a young boy for his help with the microphones. My curiosity peaked because this boy was very young. I asked how exactly he had helped that morning. Then I heard the rest of the story.

When the church found itself without an audiovisual director, eight-year-old Allan Santos offered to help. After some training, Allan had been placed in charge of arriving early every Sabbath to turn on the sound console, the computer, the projector and



to set up microphones. I was told he had faithfully served every single Sabbath. I was touched by his commitment, his dedication, his fidelity and his tenacity. When Allan was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he replied, "I want to be a pastor and a doctor."

Allan has discovered the secret of enduring joy. For there is no greater joy, no greater satisfaction, than that found in service to God and one's neighbor.

This reminds me of the story of another child, the one who gave *all* of his meal to the Master. He was happy to give Jesus what was needed. And with that young boy's small lunch, simply-prepared in a humble home, Jesus performed a miracle.

I'm wondering how many miracles heaven could perform with your gifts and talents when you place them in the Master's hands?

CÉSAR DE LEÓN North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director

Eight-year-old Allan Santos arrives early, every Sabbath to run the audiovisual equipment for church.



MISIÓN Y SERVICIO

Ofreciendo Tus Talentos a Jesús

MIENTRAS QUE LAS IGLESIAS HAN COMENZADO EL TRABAJO DE LA REORGANIZACIÓN E IDENTIFICACIÓN DE NUEVOS VOLUNTARIOS Y AYUDANTES PARA CUBRIR LAS RESPONSABILIDADES DE LOS DIFERENTES MINISTERIOS; ENCONTRAR MIEMBROS DISPUESTOS A COLABORAR, HA VENIDO A SER UN DESAFÍO, ESPECIALMENTE PARA LOS PASTORES.

Hace unos sábados atrás, mi esposa y yo visitamos una iglesia Hispana, y como es de esperar, algunas de estas congregaciones nos invitan a predicar cuando los visitamos. Sin embargo, en esa oportunidad, sentía la impresión de no aceptar la invitación si me la extendían.

Al entrar al santuario fuimos cordialmente bienvenidos e inmediatamente vino la invitación, "Pastor ya que está aquí, quisiéramos que predique". Había un varón bien vestido cerca de allí y pregunté si él era el predicador designado



Más en línea en NWADVENT.ST/116-6-HSP-89

para predicar, y se me dijo que sí y me preguntó si yo deseaba predicar. Lo vi y sentí una impresión de decir que no, que él siguiera adelante con su sermón planeado.

Fui sorprendido cuando dentro del tema el predicador, Rodolfo Carrillo mencionó que su hermano y su esposa estaban visitando de lejos y habían venido a escucharlo predicar. También me enteré que la iglesia había solicitado a Rodolfo que viniera a predicarles. Me sentí sumamente feliz al saber que no había sido un sentimiento o meramente un impulso el que me había dirigido a no aceptar la predicación de ese sábado. El Espíritu había concertado todos los eventos de esa mañana.

Saliendo por la puerta después del servicio, escuché a Rodolfo agradecerle a un niño por su ayuda con los micrófonos. Esto me llamo la curiosidad porque el niño estaba muy pequeño y pregunté ¿cómo el niño había ayudado esa mañana en el culto de adoración? Y entonces me comentaron el resto de la historia.

Cuando la iglesia se encontró sin un director de sonido, se había extendido la invitación a varias personas

Allan Santos, de ocho años, llega temprano, todos los sábados a ejecutar el equipo audiovisual para la iglesia. para tomar el cargo, pero sin ningún resultado. Este niño Allan Santos de solamente ocho años de edad se había ofrecido a ayudar. Recibiendo un corto entrenamiento, Allan ya por varios meses se encargaba de prender la consola del sonido, la computadora, el proyector, la instalación de micrófonos y no había fallado ningún solo sábado. Me llamó la atención su entrega, su dedicación, su fidelidad y su tenacidad. Al preguntársele que quieres ser cuando seas grande había contestado, "Quiero ser un pastor y médico".

Allan ha descubierto el secreto de la felicidad, porque no existe un gozo mayor, ni satisfacción más grande que la que se encuentra en el servicio al prójimo. Recuerdo la historia de otro niño, aquel que dio toda su comida y la puso a la disposición del Maestro. Él estaba feliz de darle al Jesús lo que él necesitaba en ese momento, y Jesús hizo un milagro con la merienda sencillamente preparada en un hogar humilde.

Me pregunto ¿Cuántos milagros pudiera hacer el cielo con tus dones si tú los pusieras hoy en las manos del Maestro?

CÉSAR DE LEÓN vice presidente de los ministerios hispanos y director ministerial de la Unión del Pacífico Norte



MISSION & OUTREACH

Alaska Church Moves 18 Inches Closer to Heaven

L-R: Matthew Webber, Shawn McCrery, and Pastor Jim John pose in front of the newly painted church.

GOD IS WORKING IN THE ALASKAN VILLAGE OF UTQIAĠVIK. HE'S DELIVERING ON THE 30-YEAR-OLD PRAYERS OF THE ARCTIC ADVENTISTS TO ENSURE THEY HAVE A PLACE TO MEET AND WORSHIP IN A BUILDING THEY OWN.

Within the last several years, God blessed the congregation with a church they were able to purchase—a house near the center of town.

Property is hard to come by in Utqiaġvik, so it was clearly a big answer to prayer. But the building needed a lot of work.

Part of the problem with the property was that every year, during the breakup (that's "spring" for those of you in the lower 48), the church would flood. During the breakup of 2020, the kitchen and living room were both sitting in water. But God had a solution.

Jim John, Anchorage Northside church pastor, approached the Arctic Adventists with an idea to raise the church above the water linehold. It would only require a fundraiser and a group of volunteers.

One failed attempt at raising the church in 2020 didn't deter the volunteers and, in the summer of 2021, they succeeded.

The revised plan included building a steel framework under the church to jack up the new foundation. In order to accomplish this, steel beams had to be bolted together under the church. It was far easier said than done. But members of the church and community came together to help the volunteers dig trenches for the beams.

 Alaska members and pastors take a break from raising the church.

Remarkably, God brought more than \$30,000 in donations to the project through many generous people. God even arranged the use of a piece of heavy machinery and an operator to move the beams into place for free! Another blessing was discovering permafrost (permanently frozen ground) shallower than expected, providing a way to build on top of it for solid pilings. The church even has a new paint job.

It is evident that God had His hand on this project. He revealed His work in more ways than one.

Thanks to the many volunteers, the support of donors and the miracles of God, the Arctic church is now 18-inches closer to heaven.

ZACKERY BABB Arctic, Delta Junction & North Pole churches pastor



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/116-6-AK-48



MISSION & OUTREACH

Former Addict Sheds Light on Recovery



• Cheri Peters, fourth from left, enjoyed time with Dillingham members at the Sabbath fellowship meal.

CHERI PETERS, author,

speaker and host of True Step Ministries' *Celebrating Life in Recovery*, travelled to Dillingham and Togiak, Alaska to host community meetings on recovering from abuse, dysfunction and addiction. *Celebrating Life in Recovery* is an international television program focusing on recovery issues.

Peters arrived in Dillingham on the morning of August 13th and visited Jake's Place, the local drug and rehabilitation center. She talked with those who were struggling with addictions and listened to their stories. She gave away *Steps to Christ Recovery Edition* books which were well received and appreciated. Friday evening and Sabbath morning, she spoke at the Dillingham Church where she shared her life journey of recovery and provided hope to those struggling with life's challenges.

Sabbath afternoon, Peters and a group of Dillingham members flew to the village of Togiak where the Alaska Conference has a small church. Of the town's 800 residents,

gleaner

most are Alaska Natives. The Arctic Mission Adventure workers who lead the community in weekly services recently relocated to the lower 48. But, even in their absence there were still 15 young people, along with others from the community, who eagerly listened to Peters' testimony.

After the meeting, Peters stayed up late into the evening, tirelessly talking and listening to people who had loved ones or who themselves were struggling with addiction. Some could relate to her life and what she had been through. Many were greatly blessed by her personal testimony and story about how the Lord saved her from addiction. Peters also spoke about how the Lord is using her now to help others.

During her visit, Peters was able to experience some Alaskan adventures. She enjoyed four-wheeling, berry picking and watching salmon fishing. She even got to try delicious fry bread and Akutaq, which is also known as Eskimo ice cream.

Peters' testimony and presence were invaluable to those who came to listen and apply her wisdom in the effort to overcome addiction.

TODD PARKER Dillingham and Togiak churches pastor



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/116-6-AK-50



A Togiak church member connects with Cheri Peters.





Perez Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

ON THE FIRST SABBATH OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, PASTOR EVER PEREZ WAS ORDAINED TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY AT GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY IN IDAHO. HE SERVES AS PASTOR OF THE GEM STATE ACADEMY CHURCH, A BIBLE TEACHER AND ACADEMY CHAPLAIN.



Dixie and Ever Perez.

More online at + NWADVENT.ST/116-6-ID-61

Perez came to the United States from Cuba as part of the Cuban boatlift. His parents wanted to come to the U.S. so their children would not suffer religious persecution and could pursue a good education.

Perez said that he first heard a call to ministry when he was 15, but ignored it. As an introvert, he didn't believe he would qualify or be any good at being a pastor.

Perez began college but he did not finish a degree. A few years later, he met his wife, Dixie, who eventually became his partner in ministry.

A time came when he could no longer ignore God's calling. Perez returned to college and received his degree from Southern Adventist University. He began his pastoral ministry in the Pennsylvania Conference and also served as a chaplain and teacher at Blue Mountain Academy.

Perez, Dixie and their children, Kailey and Kristian, moved to GSAA in 2018.

After Kailey's recent graduation from Union College, she is serving as a parttime assistant at the Academy as well as a part-time young adult coordinator at the Caldwell Church. Kristian is pursuing an alternate education.

Family, friends and colleagues came to celebrate Perez's ordination. John Soulé, GSAA principal, welcomed the audience to the special service. Chris Evenson, Nampa Church pastor, opened the meeting with prayer. Providing music for the service was praise group 3:6Teen, who Perez had worked with the previous school year. Introducing Ever and Dixie was mentor and friend, Pastor Lou Fitting with his wife Kara.

John Freedman, North Pacific Union president, presented the homily, many times speaking directly to the Perez family. David Prest Jr, Idaho Conference president, gave the prayer of ordination while Don Klinger, conference assistant to the president, gave the charge to the newly ordained pastor.

Jim Bollin, conference ministerial director and Kuna Church pastor, welcomed the Perez family. John Rogers, conference vice president, gave the benediction and invited everyone to a reception in the lobby. Ben Purvis, GSAA music director, provided a piano prelude.

Many students and other conference pastors witnessed the public commitment to ministry. The service was also livestreamed and can be viewed on the Gem State Academy Church YouTube channel.

EVE RUSK Idaho Conference communication director



HOTOS BY EVE RUSK

The Perez family: Ever, Dixie, Kailey and Kristian.

EDUCATION





GSAA Spiritual Retreat: A Valuable Tradition

GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY STUDENTS AND STAFF START EVERY SCHOOL YEAR WITH A LONG-STANDING TRADITION. A THREE DAY SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT CAMP IDA-HAVEN SETS THE TONE FOR THE YEAR AND PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOND AS A SCHOOL FAMILY.

John Soulé, GSAA principal, believes the retreat draws the students and staff closer to God and to each other. "It's an important way to start the year and it carries over to daily life on campus."

Along with important spiritual programs, several hours were spent serving the camp by weeding and clearing brush. It was an opportunity to invest and take ownership in the camp as well as a way to say 'thank you' to the camp staff hosts.

Ever Perez, Bible teacher and GSAA Church pastor, asked the staff to share personal stories of what it has been like to follow Jesus.

John Soulé, GSSA's principal shared a story illustrating that a Christian life

is not easy, but simple. Athletic director Jeremy Perkin's wisdom was about personal life plans. He explained that even when we have our own ideas, God wants us to follow His and is ready and waiting to receive us into those plans. Samantha Schnell, head dean, explained that sometimes God keeps us in a place for as long as necessary, until He has everything He needs ready to continue our forward motion in His plan. Kailey Perez, assistant chaplain, revealed the confusion she's encountered as God's plan hasn't always been clear. She talked about her commitment to continue moving forward in faith, believing that He has a plan even when she can't see the end of

the story.

"All were blessed by the authenticity and transparency of the faculty stories," said Perez. "This was a great way to begin our school year. God blessed immensely."

After the event, students expressed how the retreat impacted them.

Sela Estep, GSAA senior said, "I think that the Ida-Haven retreat is super important at the beginning of the year because it gets us closer as a school. It gives the new and returning students good opportunities to get to know each other better. It helps Gem State to become a tighter community."

"I think the most important thing about the Camp Ida-Haven retreat this year was being able to get to know the freshmen and to connect with the new students in my class," said Kloe Stoldt, junior.

"The most important thing is that it allows everyone to get to know each other better," said Seth Davis, freshman. Sofia Creitz, freshman, agrees, "Connection and bonding are important."

"The Ida-Haven retreat sets the tone for the rest of the school year, builds a spiritual atmosphere and provides a chance for students to get to know each other," said Izzie Henry, sophomore.

"The most valuable aspect is all the amazing memories that are made. The most fun is being with friends and bonding with new people and the most important thing is the spiritual euphoria we feel when we're up there, along with what we do with that experience," said Ely Ingraham, senior.

It is clear, this annual retreat is not just a beloved tradition but a privilege and blessing that extends through the entire school year. Read more student quotes at nwadventists.com.

> MARTA STONE Gem State Adventist Academy teacher and campus communications assistant



More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-6-ID-65

+

MONTANA NEWS CONFERENCE

Pandemic Serves to Restore Billings School



EDUCATION

More online at + NWADVENT.ST/116-6-MT-67

IT WAS MAY OF 2020 during the early weeks of the nationwide lockdown. With travel restrictions in place and meetings being held on Zoom, the school board of Central Acres Christian School in Billings, Montana, was faced with one of the hardest decisions they would have to make.

The previous teacher had taken a job at another school. And, with the pandemic, it was almost impossible to interview, hire and move a new teacher to the area. On top of that, no one yet knew if or how COVID-19 would progress. At the time, even national and state officials still didn't know how to plan for the following school year.

HOTOS BY RYAN TURNEWITSCI



 Newly remodeled girls bathroom with a flower theme.



Completely remodeled entryway

There was prayer, discussion and even more prayer. The final decision was to close the church school for one year. But that was not the end of the discussion.

The question was asked, "what could we do with our school if we took one year off?"

With the school building having had minimal upgrades since the late 1950s, the school board began to dream about what the school could become. They imagined rebuilding the program from the ground up-acomplete reboot, rebrand and refresh.

The board meeting ended with many mixed emotions. No one had ever wanted to see the school close. But, on the other hand, they were all anticipating what God would do. As with most small schools, constituent churches sacrifice so much to keep their school operational. That is no different for the Billings Church. Understandably, when they heard the recommendation from the school board to take a year off, they weren't thrilled. But they chose to join the school board in prayer and they, too, put their faith in God.

In September of 2020, the work began. The school board chose to dedicate themselves to meeting weekly for planning, dreaming and strategizing the reboot.

Starting from the ground up, they discussed the school's philosophy, purpose, mission and vision. Then they completed a SWOT analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Finally, they built a budget, a fundraising plan and a remodeling outline.

The mission of the school is to lead students to know Jesus, love learning, serve others and live healthfully.





Core values help facilitate this mission. They are:

- » To be Christ-centered and focused
- » To provide hands-on learning and place-based education opportunities
- » To have an emphasis on holistic health (physical, spiritual, emotional)
- » To create a loving, fun, and safe learning environment
- » To serve our community

With the mission and core values in mind, a question came up. Does the name "Central Acres" communicate these values? The decision was made to explore a new name for the school.

The school board's hope was to have a name that not only pointed to nature, but



that would also have a local flare. Many names were suggested, researched and cross-checked with other schools in the area.

When the name "Trailhead Christian" was suggested, hearts jumped. It connected with the vision, mission and values.

Trailheads start a journey that eventually lead to an amazing destination. So, it was decided. Central Acres Christian School would now be known as Trailhead Christian, a Seventh-day Adventist School.

The church rallied together at work bees where they scraped wallpaper, cleaned, scrubbed and painted. The asbestos flooring was abated, bathrooms were completely overhauled, new lighting and carpets were



installed and a new nature and outdoor decor theme flowed through the school.

Countless miracles were witnessed during the year. From hiring a teacher, to receiving funds for projects, seeing the church unite around projects and accomplishing the enormous undertaking was a boost for all involved.

Finally, on Aug. 23, 2021, Trailhead Christian School's doors opened to seven students, each welcomed by a new teacher – the miraculous answer to faithful prayers. Walking into the school, seeing and hearing students thriving and knowing they're learning about Jesus, makes all of the effort, planning and funding worth the hard work.

The Billings community continues to praise God for all He has done in such a short amount of time.

STEPHEN CARLILE Billings Church pastor and Montana Conference communications coordinator



SUBSCRIBE TO THE MONTANA HERALD **THE MONTANA HERALD** is the official communication publication of the Montana Conference. We have transitioned to a monthly email newsletter highlighting ministries and stories from churches as well as conference news, departmental updates and even Board of Director updates. You can subscribe by going to montanaadventist.org.



NORTH PACIFIC NEWS

YOUTH

Stronger When We Grow Together

DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE MUSIC TO MY EARS? I'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR A YOUNG ADULT TESTIMONY THAT GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

"Hey Rob, I had a really hard decision whether or not to work at camp this summer because I love my local church family so much. They've become such a blessing to me and every Sabbath is like a family reunion."

My prayer was answered recently, when Danny Ramos, a staff member at Big Lake Youth



Camp, shared this exact story during staff training.

Danny's experience is one I long for in churches across the Northwest. In times of societal fracture and generational disconnect, a healthy, Christcentered church stands as a beacon of hope to all generations. As people are polarized by modern ideologies and philosophies, the message and methods of Jesus are still the answer.

An insightful book, entitled Growing Young, has outlined an effective model for a church to attract young adults and grow to become a thriving community. All generations become involved when we intentionally apply Jesus' approach as seen in the New Testament. Many churches have decided to no longer stand idly by. Instead, they have chosen to put their hope into action for their young people and the future of the church. It is inspiring to see what happens through prayer, learning, connecting and the implementation of proven biblical strategies.

The North Pacific Union has engaged in an intentional learning journey over the last three years to build Seventhday Adventist Churches for all generations. The leaders of more than 150 churches, along with conference youth and young adult directors have discovered a very interesting and surprising thing. While this initiative began as an effort to reach young people, the outcomes have turned out to be transformational for all generations.

Beverly Neuman of Palmer, Alaska said, "The cohort inspired our older members to be active and innovative in their purpose for the church. Our talented young people add vitality to the older ones and we all gain a new vision for service. Our church has become a place to belong and grow spiritually."

Church leaders throughout the NPUC are championing "Growing Together" as a practical Adventist model for effective church development. The biblical principles, when applied to a local church, lead to a healthier and more vibrant church for all generations.

We should not be surprised that Christ's method alone, when applied, works for everyone! For this reason, the North Pacific Union is launching another cohort,

accurately named Growing Together. The Growing Together



cohort point leader is Benjamin Lundquist, Oregon's young adult ministries director.

The cohort launches with the first online Summit in January, 2022 and concludes in early December of 2022. It is a facilitated year-long learning journey for culture change led exclusively by church leaders from the North Pacific Union.

Would your church like to grow together? Go to growingtogethercohort.com and download the Growing Together Facts Sheet. Share the information with your local team and register as one of the many churches who are committed to growing together. The cohort model is proven, when followed and implemented, to help your church grow together as a family—and that is music to my ears!

ROB LANG North Pacific Union youth and young adult director



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BIBLE READINGS for

Follow the daily list and in one year you will have read the entire Bible.

	s	М	Т	w	Т	F	s
	K	1 Ezek. 1:1–3:15 Heb. 3:1–19 Psalm 104:1–23 Prov. 26:24–26	2 Ezek. 3:16–6:14 Heb. 4:1–16 Psalm 104:24–35 Prov. 26:27	3 Ezek. 7:1–9:11 Heb. 5:1–14 Psalm 105:1–15 Prov. 26:28	4 Ezek. 10:1–11:25 Heb. 6:1–20 Psalm 105:16–36 Prov. 27:1–2	5 Ezek. 12:1–14:11 Heb. 7:1–17 Psalm 105:37–45 Prov. 27:3	6 Ezek. 14:12–16:41 Heb. 7:18–28 Psalm 106:1–12 Prov. 27:4–6
	7 Ezek. 16:42–17:24 Heb. 8:1–13 Psalm 106:13–31 Prov. 27:7–9	8 Ezek. 18:1–19:14 Heb. 9:1–10 Psalm 106:32–48 Prov. 27:10	9 Ezek. 20:1–49 Heb. 9:11–28 Psalm 107:1–43 Prov. 27:11	10 Ezek. 21:1–22:31 Heb. 10:1–17 Psalm 108:1–13 Prov. 27:12	11 Ezek. 23:1–49 Heb. 10:18–39 Psalm 109:1–31 Prov. 27:13	12 Ezek. 24:1–26:21 Heb. 11:1–16 Psalm 110:1–7 Prov. 27:14	13 Ezek. 27:1–28:26 Heb. 11:17–31 Psalm 111:1–10 Prov. 27:15–16
	14 Ezek. 29:1–30:26 Heb. 11:32–12:13 Psalm 112:1–10 Prov. 27:17	15 Ezek. 31:1–32:32 Heb. 12:14–29 Psalm 113:1–114:8 Prov. 27:18–20	16 Ezek. 33:1–34:31 Heb. 13:1–25 Psalm 115:1–18 Prov. 27:21–22	17 Ezek. 35:1–36:38 James 1:1–18 Psalm 116:1–19 Prov. 27:23–27	18 Ezek. 37:1–38:23 James 1:19–2:17 Psalm 117:1–2 Prov. 28:1	19 Ezek. 39:1–40:27 James 2:18–3:18 Psalm 118:1–18 Prov. 28:2	20 Ezek. 40:28–41:26 James 4:1–17 Psalm 118:19–29 Prov. 28:3–5
	21 Ezek. 42:1–43:27 James 5:1–20 Psalm 119:1–16 Prov. 28:6–7	22 Ezek. 44:1–45:12 1 Peter 1:1–12 Psalm 119:17–32 Prov. 28:8–10	23 Ezek. 45:13–46:24 1 Peter 1:13–2:10 Psalm 119:33–48 Prov. 28:11	24 Ezek. 47:1–48:35 1 Peter 2:11–3:7 Psalm 119:49–64 Prov. 28:12–13	25 Dan. 1:1–2:23 1 Peter 3:8–4:6 Psalm 119:65–80 Prov. 28:14	26 Dan. 2:24–3:30 1 Peter 4:7–5:14 Psalm 119:81–96 Prov. 28:15–16	27 Dan. 4:1–37 2 Peter 1:1–21 Psalm 119:97–112 Prov. 28:17–18
	28 Dan. 5:1–31 2 Peter 2:1–22 Psalm 119:113–128 Prov. 28:19–20	29 Dan. 6:1–28 2 Peter 3:1–18 Psalm 119:129–152 Prov. 28:21–22	30 Dan. 7:1–28 1 John 1:1–10 Psalm 119:153–176 Prov. 28:23–24				

For previous Bible Reading Plans, go to nwadvent.st/2021BibleReadingPlan.

OREGON IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS CONFERENCE

CHURCH

More online at + NWADVENT.ST/116-6-OR-99

Redmond Food Bank Honors One of Its Own

ON AUG. 14, 2021, OREGON'S REDMOND CHURCH DEDICATED A NEW WALK-IN FREEZER AND REFRIGERATOR TO THE REDMOND ADVENTIST FOOD BANK IN MEMORY OF JOHN KELLEY, THE LONG-TIME FOOD BANK DIRECTOR.

During Kelley's final days, he asked that any memorial funds be used to fund a walk-in freezer for the food bank. He knew that a walk-in freezer would greatly expand the food bank's ability to serve the hungry in the Redmond community. Kelley was so well loved that money poured in. Not only were they able to buy the walk-in freezer but there were also enough funds to buy a walk-in refrigerator, too!

Kelley directed the food bank for more than 10 years. He enhanced its ability to serve the local community by creating a welcoming, cheerful environment for both the volunteers and those who were served. He developed new partnerships with local businesses and had great working relationships with organizations like Neighbor Impact.

Kate Keltz, Kelley's daughter said in her memorial speech, "Dad walked me through his vision of what he felt was needed at the food bank and I can say this is beyond his wildest dreams. There is now room to store a John-sized serving of ice cream. ... This dedication is proof of the continuing impact of Dad's life in this community."

Randy Folkenburg, Redmond Church pastor, told the story of how a client needed

NOVEMBER/DEC



A food bank volunteer shows off the ice cream wall in the walk-in freezer.

help with her hotel bill. He went to the hotel to discover the bill was \$1,000. After Folkenburg's gasp, the hotel clerk asked which church he was from. Folkenburg answered and the clerk responded, "Oh, John Kelley's church," then reduced the bill down to \$180.

Kelley is well remembered and honored throughout the Redmond community as well as the Milo and Forest Lake communities where he served as a long-time maintenance worker and was loved by all.

ALISHA HAMEL Remond Adventist Food Bank volunteer

Volunteers of the Redmond Adventist Food Bank and John Kelley's family members pose in front of the new walk-in freezer. John Kelley (grandson), Tracy Kelley (daughter-in-law), Linda Lee, Darlene Kelley (wife), Kinsey Keltz (granddaughter), Mike Kelley (son), Alisha Hamel (daughter), Kate Keltz (daughter), Bonny and Gordon Foster, and Arland Sanborn. Bill Kelley (son) is behind the freezer.

> Adventist Community Center Food Pantry

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS // CONFERENCE

MISSION & OUTREACH

Free Clinic Improves the Health of the Community



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/116-6-OR-78

THE IMPACT YOUR HEALTH

PORTLAND team had worked for months to organize their annual free community clinic in 2020. A date was scheduled and then postponed as pandemic health and safety concerns grew. Another date was chosen but, as it approached, the team realized holding the clinic still wasn't a safe option. The event was again put on hold.

Finally, in August 2021, the prospects were promising. Volunteers masked up and precautions were taken to help keep everyone as safe as possible. The Portland Adventist Academy gym floor was set up with dental stations,



the stage with curtained medical exam cubicles and the cafeteria was set up as a vision center.

Impact Your Health Portland was created to offer free healthcare services to the uninsured and homeless populations, as well as refugees, immigrants and underinsured people. Those needs don't just



Impact Your Health Portland was created to offer free healthcare services to uninsured and homeless populations, as well as refugees, immigrants and underinsured in the community. No one is turned away.

go away during a pandemic. There was a definite need for the medical, dental and vision clinic and, though the turnout wasn't as it had been in previous years, the blessings were evident in the care of more than 430 patients.

Patients were offered dental care, complete with teeth cleaning or needed fillings and extractions. Also available were eye exams, free prescription glasses, general medical exams, specialist referrals, sports physicals, foot washing, pedicures and, of course, COVID-19 vaccines.

Extending beyond physical care, volunteers also worked to fulfill patients' much-needed wellbeing. Haircuts and professional photos were available to help clients prepare resumés or important certifications. In addition, just outside the gym doors, a team of community



• Dental services included cleanings, fillings, extractions, restorations and crowns.

resource providers offered health coaching, a homemade meal, a mobile food pantry and information on more services available in the community. Volunteers offered to pray with patients and many gratefully accepted.

This incredible project was possible through the work of hundreds of compassionate, dedicated volunteers who managed every aspect of the event. Whether their work was welcoming eager patients or providing care and medical



 Patients received eye exams and prescription glasses free of charge.

expertise, volunteers shared a tangible example of Jesus' desire to heal the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all people. Every patient was treated with respect, dignity and as a precious child of the King.

KRISSY BARBER Oregon Conference communication assistant

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CONFERENCE // IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

OREGON

CHURCH

Samoan Church Celebrates Building Dedication

IN OREGON'S ROGUE VALLEY, IN THE SMALL COMMUNITY OF WHITE CITY, A SAMOAN ADVENTIST CONGREGATION IS THRIVING.

White City Group began gathering each Sabbath in 1991 and thirteen years later, they



With just over 100 members and a paid off mortgage, the future is bright for the Central Point Samoan Church.

became a company. On Dec. 10, 2009, they were organized and accepted into the sisterhood of churches as White City Adventist Church. In 2016, the church changed their name from White City Church to Central Point Samoan Church.

It was in 2012 when members of the church stepped out in faith to purchase a church building and fellowship hall. Over the last nine years the facility has been home to worship services, prayer meetings, evangelistic outreaches and, in the tradition of Samoan hospitality, sumptuous fellowship meals. In that time, members faithfully sacrificed financially. Finally, under the leadership of Talalelei Uta, pastor, the church paid off its mortgage in late 2020.

On a high Sabbath, Sept. 25, 2021, the church building was officially dedicated to the Lord and mortgage papers were symbolically burned.

The dedication weekend began on Friday evening with a vespers celebration and introduction of the weekend's theme, "To God Be the Glory." In addition to the music, guest pastors Melinda Mauia and Fuamatala To'aetolu, both visiting from California, inspired attendees with devotional messages. Over the weekend celebrations, the church welcomed nine Samoan pastors from five conferences participating as honored guests.

The full day of Sabbath services included worship, devotionals, testimonies, musical praise and a fellowship meal. The pinnacle of the Sabbath experience was a sermon from Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president. Dave Schwinghammer and Brent Plubell, conference vice presidents, also participated in the

dedication, sharing affirmation and praise to God.

After Linrud offered a prayer of thanksgiving, the mortgage papers were symbolically burned. The church choir, nearly a third of those in attendance, punctuated the service by rising to their feet to fill the air with songs of praise and thanksgiving.

Fitting with Samoan tradition, the celebration was simply too big to be contained within one day. So the congregation continued celebrations on Sunday morning, gathering again for worship and praise led by Sinapi Pa'o, pastor of the Samoa-Tokelau Church in Honolulu, Hawaii. After worship, the celebration weekend culminated with a feast of thanksgiving.

Through their journey as a congregation, the Central Point Samoan Adventists have remained faithfully committed to lifting up the name of Jesus in their community and preserving the customs, traditions and language of their Samoan church members. With just over 100 members and a paid off mortgage, the future is bright for Central Point. They look forward to using this dedicated church building to reach out to the Samoan community in the Rogue Valley.

JONATHAN RUSSELL

Oregon Conference assistant to the president for multimedia communications HOTOS BY KALEB EISELE



 After Dan Linrud offered a prayer of thanksgiving, mortgage papers were symbolically burned.

28

gleaner



CHURCH

The Dalles Church **Celebrates Grand** Opening

SEPTEMBER 18 WAS A HIGH SABBATH FOR THE DALLES **CONGREGATION AS THEY CELEBRATED THE LONG-AWAITED** GRAND-OPENING OF THEIR NEW BUILDING IN THE DALLES. **OREGON.**

Many weeks, months and years of sacrifices have served to lovingly construct this project. From the initial framing by the Maranatha volunteer team in June of 2018, to the hours of work during months of pandemic restrictions, many hands have helped.

There were building materials prayed for and then prayed over. There were also many challenges overcome by prayer, patience and communication. Each piece of this new church is an answer to prayer, a blessing from God and meant to be a light in the community.

And a light it will be! The church now sits on top of a hill, overlooking The Dalles and the Columbia River. Large windows let in sun rays while views of the Columbia Gorge and Mount Hood are the prominent "art" in the sanctuary.

Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president, shared the Sabbath message on that high Sabbath day. The grand opening consecration service was a celebration of the finished project. Linrud praised church members for their dedication and commitment. He thanked pastor David and Lori Woodruff for their commitment and excellent leadership. The building committee members and chairs were also celebrated. Thanks went to Joanne Rude and Roxie Cowart for their hard work, long hours and dedication. This member-built church has brought incredible joy and satisfaction to all.

If you'd like to visit The Dalles Church, find the new building at 501 Veterans Drive in The Dalles, Oregon. Church service begins at 10:55 a.m. each Sabbath.

+ More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-6-OR-77

DAN LINRUD





THREE SISTERS SCHOOL EXPERIENCES FIRE

A FIRE BROKE OUT the morning of Sept. 10 at Three Sisters Adventist Christian School outside of Bend, Oregon. No students or staff were harmed. However, the school's shop was destroyed and the attached bus barn was damaged.

The fire was first reported around 9:00 a.m. as a barn fire, but in reality, the school workshop and maintenance storage building were burning and the large bus barn was in danger of being consumed by the fire.

Typically the school's Sprinter van is parked in the bus barn, but the school had it out on a field trip that day, saving it from damage.

Thankfully, fire crews from the cities of Bend, Cloverdale and Sisters were able to quickly contain the blaze, preventing it from spreading to nearby buildings or land.

While the cause of the fire is being investigated, the school community is praising the Lord for the quick EMS response and for the safety of their students and staff.

KRISSY BARBER Oregon Conference communication assistant



MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/116-6-OR-76

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BIBLE READINGS for

Follow the daily list and in one year you will have read the entire Bible.

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
			1 Dan. 8:1–27 1 John 2:1–17 Psalm 120:1–7 Prov. 28:25–26	2 Dan. 9:1–11:1 1 John 2:18–3:6 Psalm 121:1–8 Prov. 28:27–28	3 Dan. 11:2–35 1 John 3:7–24 Psalm 122:1–9 Prov. 29:1	4 Dan. 11:36–12:13 1 John 4:1–21 Psalm 123:1–4 Prov. 29:2–4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hosea 1:1–3:5	Hosea 4:1–5:15	Hosea 6:1–9:17	Hosea 10:1–14:9	Joel 1:1–3:21	Amos 1:1–3:15	Amos 4:1–6:14
1 John 5:1–21	2 John 1:1–13	3 John 1:1–15	Jude 1:1–25	Rev. 1:1–20	Rev. 2:1–17	Rev. 2:18–3:6
Psalm 124:1–8	Psalm 125:1–5	Psalm 126:1–6	Psalm 127:1–5	Psalm 128:1–6	Psalm 129:1–8	Psalm 130:1–8
Prov. 29:5–8	Prov. 29:9–11	Prov. 29:12–14	Prov. 29:15–17	Prov. 29:18	Prov. 29:19–20	Prov. 29:21–22
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Amos 7:1–9:15	Obad. 1:1–21	Jonah 1:1–4:11	Micah 1:1–4:13	Micah 5:1–7:20	Nahum 1:1–3:19	Hab. 1:1–3:19
Rev. 3:7–22	Rev. 4:1–11	Rev. 5:1–14	Rev. 6:1–17	Rev. 7:1–17	Rev. 8:1–13	Rev. 9:1–21
Psalm 131:1–3	Psalm 132:1–18	Psalm 133:1–3	Psalm 134:1–3	Psalm 135:1–21	Psalm 136:1–26	Psalm 137:1–9
Prov. 29:23	Prov. 29:24–25	Prov. 29:26–27	Prov. 30:1–4	Prov. 30:5–6	Prov. 30:7–9	Prov. 30:10
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Zeph. 1:1–3:20	Hag. 1:1–2:23	Zech. 1:1–21	Zech. 2:1–3:10	Zech. 4:1–5:11	Zech. 6:1–7:14	Zech. 8:1–23
Rev. 10:1–11	Rev. 11:1–19	Rev. 12:1–17	Rev. 13:1–18	Rev. 14:1–20	Rev. 15:1–8	Rev. 16:1–21
Psalm 138:1–8	Psalm 139:1–24	Psalm 140:1–13	Psalm 141:1–10	Psalm 142:1–7	Psalm 143:1–12	Psalm 144:1–15
Prov. 30:11–14	Prov. 30:15–16	Prov. 30:17	Prov. 30:18–20	Prov. 30:21–23	Prov. 30:24–28	Prov. 30:29–31
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Zech. 9:1–17	Zech. 10:1–11:17	Zech. 12:1–13:9	Zech. 14:1–21	Mal. 1:1–2:17	Mal. 3:1–4:6	
Rev. 17:1–18	Rev. 18:1–24	Rev. 19:1–21	Rev. 20:1–15	Rev. 21:1–27	Rev. 22:1–21	
Psalm 145:1–21	Psalm 146:1–10	Psalm 147:1–20	Psalm 148:1–14	Psalm 149:1–9	Psalm 150:1–6	
Prov. 30:32	Prov. 30:33	Prov. 31:1–7	Prov. 31:8–9	Prov. 31:10–24	Prov. 31:25–31	

For previous Bible Reading Plans, go to nwadvent.st/2021BibleReadingPlan.

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UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

UCA Farm Stand Opens to the Public

IN MARCH 2020, SHEILA ALLISON, THE FORMER UCA FOOD SERVICES DIRECTOR, HAD THE IDEA TO OPERATE A TEMPORARY BAKERY AT UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY TO PROVIDE INCOME FOR THE HOURLY STAFF MEMBERS IMPACTED BY THE SHUTDOWN.

With the support of UCA staff and parents, the temporary bakery soon became a permanent business. It's now known as The UCA Artisan Bakery and is helping to provide products for The Farm Stand, which has become an essential part of the campus and beloved by the community.

"I believe one of the most rewarding parts of starting up the bakery here at UCA is our interaction with the community," said Allison, now operating as bakery director. "As our neighbors have driven by over the past months, they have seen The Farm Stand take shape and the greenhouse overflowing with produce and have expressed excitement and anticipation of its opening in August."

The Farm Stand held a soft-opening on Aug. 16, but had actually been selling produce all summer at local

EDUCATION

farmers markets and to UCA staff. Customers buy seasonal produce like peppers, carrots, tomatoes and pumpkins.

Jami Fleck, bakery coordinator, and Katelyn Johnson, baker, work with Allison to fill The Farm Stand with fresh baked goods. The UCA Artisan Bakery's products include muffins, scones, cookies, baguettes, bagels and sourdough bread.

Currently, the baked goods are made in the UCA cafeteria so production is limited. A campaign to help fund a renovation of the former campus cafeteria will allow the bakery to operate out of that facility and offer even more products as well as advanced ordering online. It will also allow students to join in the production of baked goods.

Meanwhile, UCA students are actively involved with The Farm Stand selling products and lending a hand at the weekly local market. Students also work with Johnny Kershner, UCA farm manager, to harvest the vegetables.

"Our presence at the local farmers market and



the opening of The Farm Stand on campus has been such a wonderful outreach," said Kershner. "The students' involvement with the stand and interaction with the community has really been a cool thing to witness."

The Farm Stand is open to the public Monday through Wednesday from 1-5 p.m. and closed during school holidays, vacations and home leaves. For daily updates, follow them on Instagram @ UCAfarmandartisanbakery.

MAKENA HORTON Upper Columbia Conference communication coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/116-6-UC-56

The Farm Stand is currently open to the public and provides additional hours for UCA students to come by during their free class periods.



EDUCATION



From left: Jannetta Meharry, Tamika Wright, Tori Morgan, Jennifer Wintermeyer and Stephanie Gates.

CCA's Start to the New School Year

THE FRESH, NEW SCHOOL YEAR BROUGHT ALL SORTS OF EXCITING CHANGES TO CASCADE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON.

With 185 students, the school year began with an abundance of newly enrolled students – an enrollment increase of 35%.

Stephanie Gates, CCA principal, is overjoyed. "I am so proud of the work we have done to diligently track and analyze our enrollment data and identify opportunities for improvements in the faculty, culture and curriculum," she said. Due to the enrollment blessings, the school hired four new teachers. First time teacher, Tori Morgan, is teaching second grade. Third grade teacher, Jennifer Wintermeyer, came to CCA with 24 years of experience in education. After seven years as CCA's daycare director, Tamika Wright is now teaching kindergarten. Jannetta Meharry, previously CCA's resource teacher, now teaches in the eighth grade homeroom.

In accordance with the large student body, CCA has also made some new adaptations to the school. An increase in students requires more space to accommodate them, plus, with COVID-19 distancing guidelines, the school was inspired to get creative and resorted to turning the former second music room into the new eighth grade homeroom.

CCA is determined to not let the pandemic hinder students from getting the most out of this school year. Guaranteeing a memorable year, trips and events are



More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-6-UC-74

incorporated when possible and done with ensured safety measures.

This year, the CCA memory verse is, "... be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you," Eph. 4:32 (NLT). With this verse on the forefront of everyone's mind, kindness is being promoted and is ensuring each person is guaranteed to make wonderful new memories they won't forget.

KASEY BAIS Cascade Christian Academy alumni

gleaner



Pathfinder Camporee Reminds Kids They "Belong"

THE UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE HELD A PATHFINDER CAMPOREE AT CAMP MIVODEN IN SEPTEMBER. THE EVENT HOSTED 207 PEOPLE FROM 11 DIFFERENT PATHFINDER CLUBS. THE EVENT WAS ALSO STREAMED ONLINE WHERE FIVE CLUBS PARTICIPATED FROM HOME.



Rob Lang, North Pacific Union Pathfinder director, shared multiple messages about how each of them have a place they belong. It correlated with the theme of the weekend: Belong.



Rob Lang, North Pacific Union Pathfinder director, shared multiple messages reflecting the theme of the weekend: "Belong." He focused on recognizing they each have a place and are chosen by Christ.

"When Pathfinder clubs gather like this, it reminds us that we are not alone, we are part of something bigger," said Richie Brower, UCC Pathfinder director. "Conference events give kids something bigger to look forward to throughout the club year."

Many of the Pathfinders that attended the camporee expressed their intention in furthering their relationship with Christ. "The part I'm most excited about is that 32 Pathfinders made decisions to prepare ... [for baptism]," said Brower. Additionally, 45

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/116-6-UC-57

gleaner

YOUTH

expressed that they want to learn more about Jesus and 71 shared that they are baptized and want Jesus to know they are His. "That is something to celebratee," he said. "That is the reason we do what we do."

The weekend included multiple activities for the Pathfinders to take part in, including pitching tents, packing disaster kits, hiking, a scavenger hunt, worship and multiple group activities on Sabbath afternoon.

While the weather was dreary and rain poured on the tarps they used for shelter, the Pathfinders maintained a good attitude. "Rain brings out the best in Pathfinders," said Brower. "The spirits of the





kids and staff were fantastic. We had to adjust some of our programs due to the rain, but our volunteers pivoted and made it a great experience for the kids."

To learn more about Pathfinders in the Upper Columbia Conference and how you can be a part of a local club, visit uccsda.org/club-ministries.

MAKENA HORTON

Upper Columbia Conference communication coordinator

 The Walla Walla University Church Torchbearer Pathfinders streamed the weekend services from their campsite at Lewis-Clark Trail State Park.



Milton Church "Unites 4 Kids"

CHURCH

ON AUGUST 21, the Milton Church joined congregations across the Upper Columbia Conference to Unite 4 Kids during a special day of prayer and fasting.

The Sabbath program was focused on students, teachers, school staff and volunteers as well as club leaders and Sabbath school teachers as they all prepared for the new school year.

"I think one of the values of a prayer initiative like this, is that it made all of the participants a part of the youth ministry team," said Richie Brower, UCC club, youth and young adult ministries associate director. "It's also an opportunity for church members to let teachers and volunteers know that we appreciate what they do and that we support them."

The Milton Church held a special back-to-school church service aligned with the mission of Unite 4 Kids and invited local teachers and staff to attend the service. This year, the focus broadened to include families with children.

While the service was also streamed online, there was high in-person attendance. "We all agreed that this was the biggest inperson service we have had since the beginning of the pandemic," said Nancy Canwell, associate pastor.

Many children were involved in the service, including a second-grade girl who assisted Canwell by introducing teachers, staff and board members from the local school. "I involved kids of all ages to take over parts of the service. Many proud parents showed up with their kids," shared Canwell.

Lloyd Perrin, senior pastor, had a prayer of

dedication for the teachers and staff. He prayed for God's guidance in the new school year. "Our principal told me after church that introducing and praying for the teachers and staff made them feel loved and supported," added Canwell.

The service had a positive impact on the



Children of all ages participated in the service as their proud parents watched from the pews. think that the kids also felt support, a lot of love and appreciation," said Canwell. "When they're the focus of a church service like this and [get to be] active participants, the church feels like it's *their* church. They all really enjoyed taking part and did an amazing job!"

children, too. "I

"Our kids are in the enemy's cross hairs and we need to direct focused prayer toward heaven on

their behalf," said Brower. "Now, more than ever, they need the community and support that we offer in Sabbath School, clubs and the classroom."

MAKENA HORTON Upper Columbia Conference communication coordinator

More online at + NWADVENT.ST/116-6-UC-44



MISSION & OUTREACH



Shine 104.9 Named Top Station

FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS, SHINE 104.9 (KEEH-FM) HAS BEEN PROVIDING HOPE TO THE COMMUNITIES OF SPOKANE AND COEUR D'ALENE. THE CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN STATION WAS RECENTLY RANKED #1 ACROSS ALL DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE SPOKANE AND

COEUR D'ALENE MARKET.*

"People today are really discouraged in this world and looking for the hope and encouragement that Christian radio offers," said Darin Patzer, Shine 104.9 station manager, "we package that with fun, relevant music."

According to Nielsen, a radio and TV ratings service, KEEH listeners average eight and a half hours of tune-in time weekly. This, combined with the audience size, earned the station a 7.6% share, topping the market's roughly 50 stations.

Serving its local community has been a priority for the station. By broadcasting messages from local pastors and hosting live music performances and conferences, the radio station team works hard to serve the community.

"Being a local station brings added relevance to this community, because listeners know we're right here living with them," added Patzer.

Patzer and his team fully understand how important it is to have a radio ministry as part of a local conference. Shine 104.9 is able to reach areas of its community that are often difficult for a local church ministry to enter. The station currently has 23 active Discover Bible School students.

"I messaged one of my

gleaner

• The station received a #1 ranking across all demographics from Nielsen ratings service for Spring 2021.

students who [recently] completed five lessons," said Rachel Sumagpang, a KEEH staff member. "She said, 'I was taught Sunday was the Sabbath. Do I have to change to Saturday to honor God?' [Before responding,] I prayed that the Holy Spirit [would] guide her to make the decision to worship on Sabbath for herself."

Sumagpang, Patzer and the KEEH staff know from experience that these kinds of tough questions can help ignite a real relationship and bring these listeners closer to Christ. The KEEH staff is truly touching people who consider this ministry their church.

Shine 104.9 broadcasts from Upper Columbia

Conference headquarters. The station has a translator covering North Idaho at 94.9 FM and can be listened to worldwide through their app. The station also has a second channel featuring LifeTalk radio programming, heard on their HD2 channel in Spokane. The listening app is available for iPhone and Android and can be downloaded from www.shine1049.org.

*Copyright Nielsen ratings, Spring 2021, Mon-Sun, 12+

MAKENA HORTON Upper Columbia Conference communication coordinator



More online at + NWADVENT.ST/116-6-UC-42
IMAGES of CREATION



Submit up to 7 images by November 10, 2021. For contest rules and to submit entries go to **nwadventists.com/photocontest**

WALLA WALLA NEWS

EDUCATION

Nakamura's Practical Internship Supports Urban Ministry

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

encourages students to not only study and learn in classrooms, but to be equipped, inspired and prepared to positively impact their world by gaining real world experience through internships.

Adam Nakamura, WWU senior strategic communication major, decided to unite his hands-on learning requirement with an act of service.

Nakamura heard that Impact Your Health Portland, a free medical, dental and vision clinic in Portland,



For his senior internship, Adam Nakamura served as the public relations director for a free health care clinic in Portland, Oregon. Left to right: Adam Nakamura; Paddy McCoy, Crosswalk Portland pastor; Jenny Jin, Impact Your Health Portland cocoordinator Oregon, needed help recruiting volunteers and promoting their ministry. The IYHP annual clinic offers free health care services to the uninsured and underinsured, as well as to refugees, immigrants and homeless people. Eager to join their mission, Nakamura stepped up to serve as their public relations director.

Over the course of several months, Nakamura applied skills learned in class to connect with the local community. "WWU's classes definitely played a major part in guiding me in this internship," Nakamura said. "They helped me through website optimization, social media management, drafting, submitting press releases and much more."

Nakamura said he learned the importance of knowing your audience, having clear expectations within a team and problem solving when directions were unclear. He hopes to apply these skills to a career in the humanitarian aid sector or as a freelance public relations writer.

To suggest an internship opportunity or to learn more about the university's internship program, visit wallawalla.edu/internships.

KELSI NASH

WWU university relations supervisor for marketing & enrollment services

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-6-WWU-62

WWU HOSTS Q&A WITH THE CHOSEN SERIES EDITOR

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY'S Center for Media Ministry welcomed John Quinn, editor of *The Chosen*, for a screening at the Gesa Power House Theatre in Walla Walla, Washington on Sunday, Sept. 5.

The Chosen, produced by Angel Studios, is the first multi-season series to portray the life of Jesus and his followers. The biblically-rooted series has two

completed seasons with five more seasons currently being funded.

At the screening, more than 150 attendees watched two episodes before a questionand-answer session with Quinn. Throughout the screening, tears and laughter could be heard rippling through the crowd.

"The Center for Media Ministry houses the master's in Cinema, Religion and Worldview," said Lynelle Ellis, associate professor of communication. "We always bring in a special guest for our on-campus summer intensive. This year we wanted to bring someone who works on *The Chosen* because

it is such a phenomenon in the Christian media world. Since we are teaching a class in editing and postproduction this summer, we chose to (invite) the series editor, John Quinn."

Angel Studio's foundational goal is to share the life of Christ. This aligns perfectly with CMM's mission to share the gospel through visual media. The collaborative event provided an opportunity for both CMM and Quinn to share the series with the community.

For more information about *The Chosen* visit watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen. For more information about the Center for Media Ministry visit film4him.org.

KELSI NASH

WWU university relations supervisor for marketing & enrollment services



Walia Walia University's Center for Media Ministry hosted a screening of the biblically rooted series, The Chosen. Left to right: Lynelle Ellis, John Quinn and John McVay.

MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/116-6-WWU-63





 \square Ĥ Ħ H H H Join juniors and seniors from near and far at WWU for U-Days. Tour the H H F WWU campus, attend classes, visit with a financial counselor, enjoy fun-filled events, earn scholarships, and more. Plus, your stay is on us—we'll even help with travel costs (up to \$250 per visitor). Sign up by December 15th and receive an early \$50 cash incentive! Space fills fast, so sign up now!

MARCH 3–5, 2022 APRIL 3–5, 2022





WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



CHURCH

Pacific Islanders **Develop New Leaders**

IMAGINE YOU ARE ABOUT TO GIVE A PRESENTATION TO A PRESTIGIOUS GROUP OF HIGHLY RESPECTED EVANGELISTS. YOU'RE FEELING PARTICULARLY UNQUALIFIED.



But then, the presentation just before yours gives you an intense moment of clarity and purpose, not just for that moment, but one with lasting effects on your entire ministry.

This was Meshach Soli's story. As a pastor from the Southeastern California Conference, he attended a North American Division's eHuddle in 2017 where he learned that Pacific Islanders accounted for two percent of membership demographics. He felt God impress on him to give voice to his cultural heritage.

God continued to open opportunities for equipping, empowering and inspiring Pacific Islanders. In 2019, Soli was invited to be a keynote speaker for the NAD Samoan Camp Meeting in Auburn, Washington. That is where he shared his eHuddle story.

Washington Conference pastors and leaders, Randy Maxwell, Willie Iwankiw, Nemaia Faletogo, Rome Ulia and Abishai Kenneth Aiolupotea were there to hear the powerful story.

"We started praying about how God wanted us to grow that two percent number," recalled Ulia. "We prayed for a year and a half about creating a platform for ministering to indigenous and Pacific Islanders so we could equip and empower them to be a blessing to the communities they serve."

As the team kept praying, they identified six key areas of growth: discipleship, vocation, evangelism, leadership, indigenous and preaching. The prayer-filled discussion developed into The Two Percent Ministry, launched in August 2020 along with the DVELiP framework that led into an inaugural leadership



conference in August 2021-the 1796 historical anniversary when missionaries arrived to Polynesia.

"We spend hours dreaming and planning because our people are our heart," Soli said.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY, PRAYING CONTINUALLY // NEWS

More photos and detials at +NWADVENT.ST/116-6-WA-46

EDUCATION

"CHOCOLATE PILOT" STORY COMES TO LIFE FOR STUDENTS

SANDY HAWKINS introduced her third-graders at Northwest Christian School in Puyallup, Washington, to Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot, a new book in the Pathways reading curriculum.

In the book, readers meet 7-year-old Mercedes living in Berlin just after World War II. A Russian blockade prevented delivery of food, coal and clothing so British and American pilots embarked on the Berlin Airlift, a humanitarian rescue mission also known as Operation Vittles. For 15-months, vital supplies were dropped for the people.

On a day off, Lt. Gail S. Halvorsen, an American pilot, encountered 30 children behind a fence at the Tempelhof Airport. They had nothing. He only had two sticks of gum, which the children willingly divided among each other as far as possible. Even the wrappers were sniffed with appreciation.

The story describes how Halvorsen and his buddies pooled their candy rations for the children. They tied handkerchief parachutes on the packages so the children wouldn't be hurt when the candy dropped. This secret mission soon gathered recognition, wide-spread national support and started a legacy of humanitarian kindness.

In the story, little Mercedes couldn't get to the candy fast enough. When Halvorsen learned of this, he sent a package directly to her. They continued to communicate by mail over the years. Decades later, Mercedes and Halvorsen reunited when he returned to Berlin as Commander of the 7350th Air Base Group in 1970.

"I was so enamored with this story," Hawkins said. "My class looked up Halvorsen online to learn more and found out he was still alive and living in Utah. We sent him a package with notes and artwork in May 2021."

Over the summer, a letter from Halvorsen arrived. "I wrote back right away and included my phone number," Hawkins said. "As soon as Colonel Halvorsen received my letter, he called me ... We now have a letter campaign from multiple schools, all because of reading a special story."

Colonel Halversen, also known as the "Candy Bomber," "Wiggly Wings" and the "Chocolate Pilot," turned 101 years old in October. His story has been shared far and wide through books,

documentaries and more. Find information about the Pathways book, watch footage of Halversen and the children he helped and enjoy an inspiring Christmas dramatization of the story online at nwadventists.com.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER Washington Conference communication director



MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/116-6-WA-47





Watch a video about this story online. NWADVENT.ST/116-6-WA-46

The core leadership team drew inspiration from the Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Counsel which has 40-plus years of experience equipping Black local church leaders.

"As much as we are involved in the larger body [of Christ], there are certain things that we can only say among ourselves," said Jesse Wilson, PELC director and the first keynote presenter at the inaugural DVELiP Conference. "Without apology, we've always been inclusive [and] we've kept to our mission. I know [people will be reached] for Christ that we could never have imagined."

Reaching people for Christ began at the three-day leadership conference. In the final session, eight people were baptized and one person took a stand for pursuing pastoral ministry.

"[At future] conferences now," said Ulia, "we plan to make an appeal for people to have an opportunity to have Jesus in their lives and to become leaders in whatever capacity the Holy Spirit leads toward. This conference wasn't just for [established] leaders. It was for potential leaders who wanted to explore how God was calling them to leadership."

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER Washington Conference communication director

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ Washington Conference media production associate



Sandy Hawkins and class wish Col. Gail Halvorsen a happy 101st birthday.

CONFERENCE // GROWING SPIRITUALLY, PRAYING CONTINUALLY

EDUCATION

Grief trainer Karen Nicola guides Auburn Adventist Academy students and local church members in learning how to be skillful comforters.

Auburn Students Navigate Healthy Grieving

TEN YEARS AGO, STEVE AND KAREN NICOLA FELT IMPRESSED TO REACH OUT TO PEOPLE GOING THROUGH GRIEF. AFTER LOSING THEIR SON TO LEUKEMIA, THEY PERSONALLY UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR HEALTHY GRIEF TRAINING.

The Nicolas, from Auburn, California, traveled to Washington's Auburn Adventist Academy in September to lead a special grief care training seminar for academy students and local church members.

The introductory assembly included the sharing of Nicolas' story along with a talk about the importance of words.

When a friend is grieving, the first instinct is usually to say, "I'm so sorry." Students and staff learned it is better to expand your words to include the type of loss or the problem at hand. It is better to acknowledge your friend's grief directly and say, "I'm so sorry that your dad died."

gleaner

Students then learned about the principles of healthy grief. They mixed into groups with some adult members of the academy church to discuss the value of pain and grief and how each person's grief is unique. The Nicolas shared that in order to heal from grief, one must grieve. Society teaches us to tough-it-out, but that is actually an unhealthy way of healing. No one can tell a grieving person what they should or shouldn't feel.

The training continued with stories about the correlation of shame and regret that grieving individuals may experience. Karen Nicola stressed that forgiveness is an important part of the healing process, for both others and for yourself.

The final component of training included techniques for being a good comforter. Grief impacts not only the mind but the physical body, too. In these moments, the most important thing you can do is to "go through it with them" and master the art of listening. Academy students learned the most important thing you can do for a grieving friend is sit with them and listen with an open heart and mind.

ANNA RAHENKAMP AAA student

OMA ROME ULIA

ELIZABETH BURKHARD AAA student



More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-6-WA-91

GROWING SPIRITUALLY, PRAYING CONTINUALLY // NEWS

MISSION & OUTREACH

Spruced Up Celebrates 25 Years of Service

SPRUCED UP THRIFT STORE IN BURLINGTON, WASINGTON, CELEBRATED ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

What began as a desire to meet the needs of the people living in the Skagit Valley by raising funds for community service projects, has continued to grow and be a blessing for both the church and other local organizations.

In 1996, the Women's Ministries team shared their vision with the church board. Just a month later, they opened the doors of the thrift shop on Spruce Street in Burlington. Within no time at all, they had outgrown their space and moved into a larger building on the main street of town.

Thanks to the faithful support and generosity of the church and community, Spruced Up Thrift Store continues to donate all its profits to local charities and organizations that benefit the community. The thrift shop is run entirely by church volunteers who spend countless hours processing an ever-changing inventory of donated items and making

them available for sale in the store.

Through the years, many customers have become friends with the cashiers and make it a point to shop on specific days when they know their friends will be there. The volunteer cashiers have established a rapport with many shoppers who add their name to the prayer journal or ask to have special prayer with one of the volunteers. Sometimes they return to add a note of thanks to the prayer journal and to share that their prayers were answered.

Along with an extensive line of Loma Linda, Worthington and Morning Star Farms vegetarian items, Spruced Up Thrift More online at Store offers fun sales each week. The popular "Bag Sale" allows customers to stuff a bag with as much clothing

as possible and pay only \$6 for the whole bag. Shoppers also enjoy "Color Sales" when items labeled with a specific color are 50% off the original price. Each month a different

volunteer chooses where they

would like that months' donations to go. It gives the volunteers a feeling of satisfaction to know their hours of work benefit an organization that is near and dear to their hearts. They have also been blessed to periodically make a larger donation toward special

What began as a desire to meet the needs of the people living in the Skagit Valley by raising funds for community service projects, has continued to grow and be a blessing for both the church and local organizations for 25 years!



projects at Skagit Adventist Academy or the worthy student fund.

You can help celebrate Spruced Up's 25th anniversary and God's continued blessings. If you live in the Burlington area, you're always invited to volunteer and shop. But if you're just passing through Burlington, make a plan to stop at the store to celebrate in-person.

CINDY HARTLEY SAA volunteer and Spruced Up Thrift Store board member

CONFERENCE // GROWING SPIRITUALLY, PRAYING CONTINUALLY

MISSION & OUTREACH

Mount Vernon Hospitality Brings Children to Church

THE MOUNT VERNON CHURCH in

Washington was in decline. The few members remaining wanted a change. In June 2020, they decided to start a church revitalization process.

The members met and decided that prayer, hospitality and children's ministry would be their key focus for the next 12–18 months. A new mission statement was formed: Love God and Love People.

Even during the pandemic, God abundantly blessed.

The church started the revitalization process by hiring a new youth pastor, Briana Aitken. She helped organize a Kids Fest with food and games. The surrounding community was invited to attend.

The church also started monthly youth nights with fun



Young people enjoying picking their tie dye colors and creating their own designs.

activities like movie nights and roller skating to bring young people to the church. The most recent youth event was a tie-dye night. The event was a hit!

One Mount Vernon Church teen said, "With tie-dying, it was nice being able to be outside and safe while having a lot of fun together. There was a pretty big turnout of more than 20 kids. We started inside by having pizza and fellowshipping with each other. Then we got to go outside where we started the tie-dye fun."

Now, more than a year later, the revitalization effort is taking hold. After every church service, members gather to pray at the front of the sanctuary. In addition, prayer meetings happen every Wednesday night. The church also hosted a prayer retreat at Walla Walla University's beautiful Rosario Beach Retreat Center.

When the church started this effort, the struggling congregation only had about 25 attendees, mostly adults. Now, there is a hospitality team always ready to greet visitors and attendance averages more than 60 people each Sabbath.

It is exciting to see what God will do when we commit our plans to Him.

BELLA LONG Mount Vernon Church member



ABUNDANT HEALTH SABBATHS FOCUS ON HEALTHY LIFE PRINCIPLES

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE HEALTH MINISTRY

department launched a series of Abundant Health Sabbaths to help friends and neighbors find optimal holistic health.

Abundant Health Sabbath events feature eight interactive stations offering short health talks, an exercise activity, a food demonstration and more.

"Health professionals at each station are available to answer questions and provide resources that people need for their emotional, spiritual and physical health," said Elida Jerez, Washington Conference's health ministries director.

Family practice physician, George Lee's presentation was about the importance of fresh air. "It was nice to share some insights and some science with the guests here and be with them out in nature," he said.

Participant Carmen Alejo said the pandemic requires more hours of work at her desk and a lot less mobility. "Coming here to the seminar reminded me to stay active," she said. "I've learned a lot of (new) things and some of those things I already knew, but wasn't practicing, so it was a good refresher."

"Our background as Adventists (in health ministries) has such a rich history," shared Tom Butler, a public health professional on the conference health ministries team. "Our health message is really a gift God has given us for loving people."



Abundant Health Sabbaths are designed as inclusive events so all will feel welcome to restore their health and renew their hope. Find future events on the Washington Conference Health Ministries Facebook group.

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ Washington Conference media production associate

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER Washington Conference communication director

> MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/116-6-WA-73

NEWS // LIVING GOD'S LOVE BY INSPIRING HEALTH, WHOLENESS AND HOPE.

ADVENTIST HEALTH

HEALTH

COVID-19 Patient Receives Home-based Hospital Care

WHEN TERRI MILLER TOOK A COVID-19 TEST IN ORDER TO TRAVEL TO MAUI, SHE GOT THE SURPRISE OF HER LIFE. SHE TESTED POSITIVE, DESPITE HAVING NO SYMPTOMS.

Convinced the result must be a false positive, she took another test. It, too, said she was positive.

Terri was unvaccinated, as was her husband, David. "David and I had chosen not to get vaccinated for a variety of different reasons," she explains.

Soon, the disease symptoms showed up: chills, fever, cough and body aches. Six days after her positive test, Terri was sick enough to have a telemedicine visit with a doctor. The doctor prescribed steroids, antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs and antivirals. The treatment provided relief, and in two days she felt much better.

But the relief was shortlived. Struggling to breathe, Terri went to the emergency department and was admitted to the hospital at Adventist Health Portland. "It's a very isolated place to be in the hospital with COVID," Terri says. Though she appreciated room, especially when she felt ill and afraid. To Terri's relief, the

hospital had another option: Adventist Health Hospital@ Home. Through this program,

she could benefit from the latest hospital technology and real-time monitoring from the comfort of home. Adventist Health offers the service in the Portland area and in five California communities, working with partner Medically Home, which supports home-based hospital care across the United States.



Terri Miller is grateful for the hospital-level COVID-19 care she received with her husband at her side through Adventist Health Hospital@Home.

the "phenomenal" care she received, Terri found it difficult to be alone in a small hospital Terri's Adventist Health team set up a temporary virtual hospital unit for her, and two providers visited her every day to draw blood and take X-rays. She had meals delivered and even a telemedicine provider was available on demand. Terri said she enjoyed having more space and having her husband with her.

"I am thankful that I ended up in the Adventist Health system," Terri says. "They are on the forefront of medical awareness for COVID, and there are not enough exclamation points for me to express the caring, compassionate educational supportive team that is building this program!"

Terri spent about two weeks in the program while her lungs healed with the support of oxygen therapy. She continues to pray that no new symptoms appear and that she recovers completely.

Given a second chance, Terri says she would do some things differently. "In reality, I probably would have chanced taking a vaccination, as I am now aware that the variants are going to continue to spread in the hosts that are not vaccinated," she says.

For today, it's enough to watch the progression of her lung capacity and hope the effects of COVID are temporary. Her advice to others is simple: "Be safe. Be well."

Learn more about care opportunities at Adventist Health and find tips for staying healthy at adventisthealth.org/ blog.

LAUREL ROGERS Adventist Health Portland writer and content strategist

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-6-AH-90

family BIRTHS

BONIFANT – Isla Hope was born June 2, 2021, to Joshua and Mallory (Rasco) Bonifant, Puyallup, Washington.

family AT REST

AMMON – Gerald, 83; born May 18, 1938, Sandpoint, Idaho; died Feb. 24, 2021, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Zella (Hershey); daughter, Judi John; sons, Ron, Don; brother, Don; sister, Nancy Tucker; 6 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

ANDERSON – Bette June, 77; born May 13, 1944, Nashville, Tennessee; died May 17, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Kirk, Tyler; 4 grandchildren and 1 greatgrandchild.

ANDERSON – Patricia Anne (Conway), 88; born Oct. 5, 1931, St. Louis, Missouri; died May 10, 2020, Coos Bay, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Fred; daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Dan Salyers; grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by son, Ward.

BABCOCK – Dean Lloyd, 92; born Dec. 9, 1928, Walla Walla, Washington; died Jan. 8, 2021, La Center, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Sally (Estes); sons, Gary, Daniel; daughter, Judy Rookstool; 4 grandchildren and 4 greatgrandchildren.

BAER — William, 82; born Jan. 1, 1939, Cortez, Colorado; died Jan. 1, 2021. Surviving: daughter, Aileen; son, Emil; sisters, Lorna, Myrna and 3 grandchildren.

BARROW – Connie V., 86; born Aug. 19, 1935, Mount Airy, North Carolina; died Aug. 25, 2021, Auburn, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Jack L. Barrow Jr.; son, Jack L. Barrow III; daughter, Nubian-Elon Dupree; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

BIDLEMAN – Florence "Issy" Isabel (Gerdon), 76; born Feb. 9, 1944, Richland, New York; died Jan. 1, 2021, East Wenatchee, Washington. Surviving: spouse, John "Jack;" son, Darl; daughters, Portia Loken; Grace Delgado, Erin Erwin; 8 grandchildren and 4 greatgrandchildren.

BOESHANS – Kenneth Carlyle, 70; born Oct. 14, 1950, Hazen, North Dakota; died June 6, 2021, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Rossilyn (Higgins); stepsons, Daniel, Benjamin Hankins; brother, Bruce Boeshans; sisters, Marlene Sasse, Hazen, Carol Simantel and Candice Kuhn. BOGGESS – Alyce D. (Baxter), 83; born March 15, 1938, Amsterdam, Ohio; died June 20, 2021, Casselberry, Florida. Surviving: spouse, Bob; sons, Bob, Dave, Casselberry, Tom; daughter, MariAnne Burns; brother, Jim Baxter; 7 grandchildren and 3 greatgrandchildren.

BOLTON – Bonnie (Rogers), 95; born Dec. 17, 1925, Goshen, Indiana; died Sept. 17, 2021, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Pamela Bolton; son, Terry Bolton and 2 grandchildren.

BORK – Nadene (Thompson), 98; born Aug. 22, 1922, Fruitland, Washington; died Jan. 11, 2021, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Herbert; son, Stephen Bork; 2 grandchildren and 2 greatgrandchildren.

HRISTIAN RECORD

PHONEFAITH

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BROOKS-STOCKTON – Tara Lynn (Brooks), 59; born Feb. 20, 1962, Yakima, Washington; died April 16, 2021, Sublimity, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Scott; daughter, Shannon (Rippon); a grandchild and 3 step-grandchildren.

BROTHERS –Robert Junior, 95; born April 23, 1925, Halford, Kansas; died Feb. 2, 2021, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: son, Greg; daughter, Jana and three grandchildren.

BRYANT-CLOUGH – Sandra Lee (Bryant) Danielson, 71; born Nov. 7, 1949, Vancouver, Washington; died July 21, 2021, Lincoln City, Oregon. Surviving: step-sons, John Stephen; Jay Roland; brother, Dennis Bryant and sister, Linda Orgill.

CAMPBELL – Jonathan Reid, 50; born Feb. 2, 1971, Racine, Wisconsin; died Aug. 10, 2021, Leavenworth, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Jennifer Campbell (Williams); sons, Cavan Reid, Bryce Joseph; daughters, Hannah Mae, Cora Lynn; parents, Terry R., Beverly (Cooper) and sister, Nancy Kaye Campbell.

CARLILL – Dianne Mae (Scheresky), 68; born April 20, 1953, Bismarck, North Dakota; died July 19, 2021, Lynnwood, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Michelle Carlill; sisters, Evelyn Oberg, Violette Ahlberg and brother, Dennis Scheresky.

CASEBIER – Robert "Bob" Dunham, 94; born Feb. 17, 1927, Whittier, California; died March 16, 2021, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Edythe; son, Rob Casebier Jr.; daughter, Randi Casebier Johannis; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

CASPER–Glen Edwin, 88; born April 23, 1932, Coquille, Oregon; died March 13, 2021, Burleson, Texas. Surviving: spouse, Nena (Fowler); son, Randal; daughter, Debera Hall; 6 grandchildren, 4 greatgrandchildren and a stepgreat-grandchild.

CHADWICK – Alma (Allen) Chadwick Brawley Santee Rexius, 86; born June 6, 1935, Murphy, Oregon; died Aug. 2, 2021, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Carl, Randall; daughters, Donita Smith, Susan Scarborough, Raylene Higdon, Sherri Glenn; 18 grandchildren and 21 greatgrandchildren.

CHAPMAN – June J. (Kidd), 82; born April 27, 1938, Mason County, Washington; died April 12, 2021, Shelton, Washington. Surviving: son, Brian; daughters, Jeannine, Laurie Jennings and 6 grandchildren.

CHINN – Bonnie Lucille, 93; born Sept. 28, 1927 Rice, Washington; died Sept. 19, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: brothers, Clarence, Eldon and sister, LuWanna Johnson.

CHINN – Glen, 89; born Dec. 31, 1930, Arlington, California; died May 11, 2020, Grants Pass, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Sandra (Bauman) and son, Guy.

COLBURN – Elmerla Jeanne (Parmenter), 94; born Jan. 14, 1927, Tacoma, Washington; died Sept. 05, 2021, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: Dr. John and Allene (Colburn) Kidby; Randy and Darla (Colburn) Stone; 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

CORLEY – Robert O., 82; born Aug. 6, 1938, West Carroll Parish, Louisiana; died Feb. 17, 2021, Clarkston, Washington. Surviving: brother, Stephen Lewis Corley.

COY – Betty L. (Schlinsog) Palmquist, 88; born Oct. 27, 1932, Medford, Oregon; died March 11, 2021, Redmond, Oregon. Surviving: son, Kevin Palmquist and a grandchild.

CROOKER – Alice Mamie (Shumate), 73; born Aug. 18, 1947, Kirkland, Washington; died June 9, 2021, Redmond, Washington. Surviving: spouse, David; son, Daniel Crooker; daughter, Becky (Crooker) De Oliveira and 4 grandchildren.

DANCEL – Janis Nadine, 74; born June 13, 1945, Tacoma, Washington; died April 30, 2020, Tacoma, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Cris Dancel Jr.; sons, Marc, Christopher and brother, Greg White.

DAVY – Roger W., 82; born March 11, 1937, Tillamook, Oregon; died Jan. 1, 2020. Surviving: sons, David, Larry; daughters, Merrillyn, Cynthia A. (Davy) Calcagno; sister, Valerie Davy Patchen and 5 grandchildren and 3 greatgrandchildren.

DAWES – Gary Lee, 64; born Nov. 15, 1956, Walla Walla, Washington; died April 30, 2021, Aumsville, Oregon. Surviving: father, John; brothers, Larry, Barry and sister, Terri Dawes.

DEAN – Janet Elaine, 61; born June 1, 1959, Fort Worth, Texas; died Feb. 7, 2021, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: mother, Lavella; brother, David and sister, Jane Wilhite.

DONALDSON – Iris Joy, 93; born Sept. 16, 1924, Yakima, Washington; died July 6, 2021, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Dale Sifford, Don; 4 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 2 stepgrandchildren and 2 stepgreat-grandchildren.

ESSELSTYN – Ronald Charles, 78; born Jan. 16, 1943, Pendleton, Oregon; died May 6, 2021, Pilot Rock,

family AT REST

Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Sue (Wagner).

FISHER – Sheldon L., 94; born March 12, 1927, Antelope, North Dakota; died May 2, 2021, Antelope, North Dakota. Surviving: Sharon (Gary) Messer, Vaunda Fisher, Sheleen Fisher, Craig (Amanda) Fisher, Shannon (Galen) Drake, 22 grandchildren and 23 greatgrandchildren.

FORD – Carole Bernice, 97; born Jan. 21, 1924, Portland, Oregon; died June 25, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Alan, Greg; daughters, Kathy (Ford) Falter; Cheri (Ford) Lemke; Wendy (Ford) Norfolk; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

FRY – Daniel W., 73; born Sept. 6, 1947, Eugene, Oregon; died May 17, 2021, Christmas Valley, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Brenda (Brown); daughters, Sandra Harwood, Adella Chastain, Suzanne Sickels and 9 grandchildren.

GALINDO – John P., 68; born Dec. 1950, Florence, Arizona; died Nov. 2019, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Nancy (Engebretson); daughters, Sarah (Baker) Scipio; Laura Baker; brother, Dale Matlock and 4 grandchildren.

GIMBEL – Hervey Willis, 94; born Nov. 25, 1926, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; died Feb. 22, 2021, Loma Linda, California. Surviving: spouse, Ann (Matterand); sons, Ken, Marlin; daughters, Shirley Tetz, Denise Gimbel, Beverly Kramer; 10 grandchildren and 11 greatgrandchildren.

GIMBEL – Judith Anne (Carl), 84; born Sept. 18, 1936, Seattle, Washington; died Aug. 21, 2021, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Surviving: spouse, Howard; daughters,

OUR FAMILY

family AT REST

Karen Gimbel Weingarth, Gay Janette Remboldt; sons, Roger Gimbel, Glenn Gimbel, Keith Gimbel; brothers, David Carl, Michael Carl; 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

GOFF – Marga Klara (Mezger) Merritt, 87; born Aug. 6, 1932, Stuttgart, Germany; died June 4, 2020, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Turk Goff; daughters, Sylvia Bright; Debra Russell, Lisa Case; 7 grandchildren and 6 greatgrandchildren.

GOUGE – Matthew L., 30; born Sept. 23, 1990, Spokane, Washington; died March 26, 2021, Missoula, Montana. Surviving: Victor Gouge, Jodie Gouge, Alisha Reum Matt, Jeremiah Reum, Lisa Peters Nortan, Loki Matt, Memphis Matt, Navonntah Reum, Makayla Reum and Chevy Reum.

GRISWOLD – Jack W., 88; born Sept. 11, 1932, Loma Linda, California; died Jan. 17, 2021, Redlands, California. Surviving: spouse, Bethene (Neufeld); sons, Gary, Kent, Scott; daughter, Shelley Hayton, 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

GRYTE – Silva Louise, 94; born June 18, 1926, Maryville, Missouri; died May 9, 2021, Mariposa, California. Surviving: sons, Gary Gryte, Garth Gryte; daughters, Connie Needles, Susan Gryte, Rosemary McDaniel; brother, Jack Woosley; sister, Jeanne Koval; 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

HAMILTON – Rita Ann (McMullen), 63; born Oct. 1, 1957, Salt Lake City, Utah; died Jan. 21, 2021, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Larry Hamilton; son and daughter-in-law, Daryl and Cassie Hamilton; daughter and son-in-law, Kellie and Alex Kraft; daughter, Melinda Hamilton and 2 grandchildren.

HARCHENKO – Jerry Duane, 89; born Jan. 29, 1932, Butte, North Dakota; died July 30, 2021, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Jerraleen (Harchenko) Hoggatt; son-inlaw, Jim Hoggatt; daughterin-law, Viki Harchenko; 6 grandchildren and 6 greatgrandchildren.

HELLMAN – Mary Jane, 65; born Dec. 2, 1955; died Aug. 7, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Nathan Hellman, Kirk Hellman; grandchildren, Rachel, Judah, Moriah, Taleah and Noah; sisters, Nancy, Susan and Sandy.

HIEB – Lyndel Rae, 94; born Jan. 14, 1927, Minneapolis, Minnesota; died June 14, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Bruce, Randy, Brian; daughters, Kris Christensen Hallam, Kenda Cleveland; sisters, Francis Peterson, Virginia Dennison, Marlys Peterson Berg; brother, Donavan Peterson; 17 grandchildren, 24 greatgrandchildren and one greatgreat-grandchild.

HOERSTER – Laura "Anna", 99; born Aug. 13, 1920; died Aug. 1, 2020, Grants Pass, Oregon.

HOFFARTH – Virginia Fern (Poe), 88; born Feb. 15, 1933, Walla Walla, Washington; died Aug. 3, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Arnil Hoffarth; sons, David, Kevan; daughter, Alexandra; 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

HOMBURG – James Nelson, 90; born Sept. 24, 1930, Spokane, Washington; died April 4, 2021, Dayton, Washington. Survived by: Judith Homburg (Swinger); Terry Homburg; Charlene (Homburg) Hein; Shelley (Morgan) Hepler; Leslie (Morgan) Sweetwood; Blaine Morgan; 2 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 3 greatgrandchildren and 7 stepgreat-grandchildren.

HOPKINS – Roberta "Robin" (Grant) Duffield, 74; born April 21, 1945, Pontiac, Michigan; died March 7, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Adam; daughters, Suzzette, Lynn, Sandy; brother, Andy and grandchildren.

HUMBERT – James B., 89; born Nov. 29, 1931, Eastside, Oregon; died Feb. 8, 2021, Lakeside, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Penny; son, Steve Humbert; daughter, Victoria Rector; 4 granddaughters and 6 greatgrandchildren.

HUNTER – Juanita Muriel (Kalar), 90; born June 18, 1931, Houston, Texas; died July 16, 2021, College Place, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Teresa Hunter; son, Leland Hunter and sister, Freida (Kalar) Smith.

HUTSON – Lillian, 87; born Aug. 22, 1932, Hood River, Oregon; died Aug. 19, 2020, Hood River.

JOHNSON – Thelma Jeane (Keightley), 88; born Jan. 9, 1933, Rogersville, Missouri; died March 13, 2021, Albany, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Norman, Mark; daughters, Diana Sosa, Brenda Slaw; 14 grandchildren, 6 stepgrandchildren, 11 greatgrandchildren, 7 stepgreat-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

KNITTEL – Daniel Richard, 88; born July 24, 1932, Goodrich, North Dakota; died Jan. 27, 2021, Wenatchee, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Martha (Morales) Knittel; son, Todd Knittel; daughters, Julie Knittel, Debra Knittel Love; 7 grandchildren and 7 greatgrandchildren.

KRIEGER – Vance Leon, 62; born June 7, 1958, Walla Walla, Washington; died Aug. 6, 2020, Kalama, Washington. Surviving: daughter and sonin-law, Jennifer (Krieger) and Chris Mears; mother, Vaughn (Hiebert) Krieger; brothers, Sidney Krieger, Kent Krieger; sister, Kara (Krieger) McGhee; 2 grandchildren, Olivia and Cade Mears.

LACOM – Geraldine "Jerry" (Ivey), 94; born May 9, 1926, Des Moines, Iowa; died March 24, 2021, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: sons, Gary, Richard; daughter, Kristi Candler; 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

LAMB – Gwen Gail (Anderson) (Harvey), 77; born Aug. 7, 1944, Detroit, Michigan; died Aug. 29, 2021, Kennewick, Washington. Surviving: sons, Fred Anderson, David Harvey; 5 grandchildren and 10 greatgrandchildren.

LEHDE – John Stuart, 76; born Feb. 13, 1944, Dallas, Texas; died Aug. 30, 2020, Yamhill, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Ginny (McDougal); daughters, Chelsea Lehde and Lauren Lehde.

LOCKLEAR – Juneann, 73; born Dec. 22, 1947, Seattle, Washington; died May 28, 2021, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Barry Locklear; daughter, Constance Locklear; brother, Laird Konker.

LUND – Judith Ann (Bounds), 78; born Oct. 20, 1942, Portland, Oregon; died July 29, 2021, Depoe Bay, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Kamie Zitek; brother, Jeff Bounds;

OUR FAMILY

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6 grandchildren and 3 greatgrandchildren.

MATHIEU – Shirley F., 66; born June 27, 1954, Atlanta, Georgia; died March 12, 2021, Seattle, Washington. Surviving: Alan Mathieu.

MAXTED – Norma Viola (Dennis), 93; born March 16, 1926, Cambridge, Idaho; died Jan. 22, 2020, College Place, Washington. Surviving: Martha (Maxted) Schaffer; Glenn Maxted; Susan Maxted, Stan Maxted, Greg Maxted, Elly Maxted, Candace (Maxted) Seely; 9 grandchildren and 13 greatgrandchildren.

MCCONNELL – Julia Gustine "Gussy" (Gunderson), 86; born Nov. 10, 1934, Plainview, Oregon; died March 22, 2021, Dayton, Ohio. Surviving: spouse, Don; daughter, Susan Gilbert; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

MCFARLAND – Doyle Lee, 92; born March 9, 1929, Sutherlin, Oregon; died May 13, 2021, Magalia, California. Surviving: spouse, Kathy (Pound) Rasmussen McFarland; son, Dennis McFarland; daughters, Janet, Julie Kline, Ginger Mack; stepdaughters, Janelle (Rasmussen) Corbel, Joanne Rasmussen, Magalia; sister, Florene McFarland; 5 grandchildren, 6 greatgrandchildren and a greatgreat-grandchild.

MCGEE – Larry Dean Sr., 85; born March 16, 1935, Glasgow, Montana; died Jan. 16, 2021, Everett, Washington. Surviving: 7 children, 13 grandchildren, 13 greatgrandchildren and 2 greatgreat grandchildren.

MCKINNIS – Betty Louise (Hodnett), 90; born June 7, 1931, Tujunga, California; died Sept. 8, 2021, Pleasant Hill, Oregon. Surviving: Becky (McKinnis) and Daniel Schoen; Ed McKinnis; Terry and Kim McKinnis; Robin and Jacci McKinnis; Randy McKinnis; Rick and Star McKinnis; Molly (McKinnis) Raya; 18 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

MEHARRY – Steven Allen (Neuharth), 68; born June 1, 1952, Walla Walla, Washington; died Oct. 7, 2020, Walla Walla. Surviving: spouse, Sheila Crumpacker Meharry; sons, Jared, Josh; brother, Mike; sisters, Jackie Moro, Trish Nielsen, Debbie Drager and 4 grandchildren.

MILLER – A. Luella (Shafer), 97; born April 16, 1924, Yakima, Washington; died May 10, 2021, Enterprise, Oregon. Surviving: son, Robert; daughters, Suzanne; Virginia "Gini" Sallee; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

MILLS – Rosemary (Whitney) Allen, 94; born April 9, 1927, Clovis, New Mexico; died June 2, 2021, Corvallis, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, LaVern Mills; sons, Michael Allen, Randy and daughter-inlaw, Cindy Mills; daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Lyle David, Janet and Jerry Gerding; brother, Mack; sister, Margaret; 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

MOFFIT – Arthur, 81; born April 15, 1940, Manton, Michigan; died Aug. 8, 2021, Everett, Washington. Survived: spouse, Carol (Oetman), Camano Island, Washington; sons, Chad, Fletcher, Seth; daughter, Dawn Moffit and 4 grandchildren.

NELSON – Gloria Ann (Guzman), 72; born May 23, 1949, Brawley, California; died July 7, 2021, Tacoma, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Kelly Nelson; daughters, Kami Nelson, Keisha (Nelson) Groves; seven grandchildren and one greatgrandchild.

NELSON – Gordon James, 97; born Oct. 17, 1923, Portland, Oregon; died April 26, 2021, Jacksonville, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Laurel Connie Nelson (Rumble); sons, Gran, Todd; daughter, Jyl Sundquist; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

NICHOLSON – Marilyn Lavonne (Hegstad), 76; born July 18, 1944, Portland, Oregon; died Feb. 22, 2021, Portland. Surviving: son, Dan Nicholson; daughters, Mindy Nicholson, Cindy (Nicholson) Ulloa; brother, Bruce Hegstad; sister, Loretta (Hegstad) Johnson and 2 grandsons, Austin and Quintin Ulloa.

NILSSON – Colleen Lillian, 81; born Dec. 27, 1939, Bellingham, Washington; died April 27, 2021, Sequim, Washington. Surviving: Son, Lonnie Mandigo; daughters, Nancy (Mandigo) Ley, Annette (Mandigo) Morgan; stepsons, Greg, Douglas Nilsson; step-daughters, Tana Stem, Lora Sykes; step-son, Douglas Nilsson; step-daughter, Karla Muth; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

PETERS – Donald Lee, 91; born June 17, 1929, Shields, Michigan; died Aug. 3, 2020, Loma Linda, California. Surviving: daughter, Jeanette Peters Kattenhorn; brothers, Dan, Kingston, Roy; sisters, Lois Peters Wilson, Tootie Iverson, Ruth Troyer; 3 grandchildren and 4 greatgrandchildren.

PETERSON – Leonard, 86; born May 1, 1934, Bellingham, Washington; died Dec. 25, 2020, Tiller, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Denise

family AT REST

Hoyt; sister, June Hadland and a grandchild.

PHILLIPS – George William, 93; born Aug. 7, 1927, Arcadia, Kansas; died May 24, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Ruth Tym Philips.

PHILLIPS – Virgil, 88; born Oct. 3, 1932, Fayettsville, Arkansas; died July 14, 2021, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: brother, Alvin Fohman and sister.

PICHAY – Clemente Antoni and spouse Rebecca (Encendencia), died tragically in Salt Lake City, Utah as a result of injuries sustained in a house fire. Clemente, 90; born Jan. 2, 1931, Philippines; died July 20, 2021; Rebecca, 76; born Feb. 9, 1945, Philippines; died July 28, 2021. Surviving:

Achem, Allen, Abe Pichay and

grandson, Parker.

PIERCE – Barbara Ann, 63; born July 2, 1957, Caldwell, Idaho; died May 26, 2021, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Randy Pierce; sons, Jeffery, Douglas; daughter, Lisa Pierce; grandson, Dakoda Pierce; granddaughter, Annie Pierce; sister, Julia Werner Mason; brothers, Paul Werner, David Werner; 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

PORTER – Ernest I., 88; born May 1, 1932, Eugene, Oregon; died Aug. 26, 2020, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Marlene (Anderson); son, Gene; daughter, Donna; 7 grandchildren, 17 greatgrandchildren and a greatgreat-grandchild.

POTTS – Phyllis Lee (Andrews), 93; born Nov. 2, 1927, Visalia, California; died Sept. 5, 2021, Spokane, Washington. Surviving:

OUR FAMILY

family AT REST

daughter, Janet Andrews Evert; son, Kevin Andrews; 3 grandchildren and 10 greatgrandchildren.

PURVIS – Wilber "Willy" Lee, 78; born Sept. 26, 1942, Everett, Washington; died Jan. 9, 2021, Desert Hot Springs, California. Surviving: spouse, Janet (Dasher); son, Duane Purvis; daughter, Diane (Purvis) DiPasquale; brother, Marty Purvis; 4 grandchildren and 3 step-grandchildren.

REICH – Harold E., 73; born May 27, 1947, Yakima, Washington; died March 3, 2021, Richland, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Gwen; sons, Jesse, Daniel and Tim; brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Diane Reich; nieces and spouses, Sharon and Harold Hufman; Emily and Shane Houtrouwn; their children, Raelyn and Jaden.

RIEDERER – Joseph Dwight, 89; born Dec. 18, 1931, Ketchikan, Alaska; died June 6, 2021, Sitka Alaska. Surviving: spouse, Jean Riederer; sister, Joelle Elliston; daughters, Sheri Wagner, Carolyn (Riederer) Annerud, Sandy Wagner Young, Gail Riederer; sons, Drue Wagner, Craig Wagner, Dwight, Riederer, Mark Riederer; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

RINGERING – Elmer Charles, 85; born Aug. 14, 1935, Brainerd, Minnesota; died Dec. 31, 2020, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Marilyn (Morris); sons, Jeff, Brent; daughter, Brenda Salsbery; brother, Floyd Ringering; sisters, Elma Trodell, Irene Aldred; 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

ROWELL – La Lonnie Lueria (Lange), 80; born Jan. 1, 1941, Portland, Oregon; died July 1, 2021, Keizer, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Henry Harold Rowell Jr.; daughters, Cherry Ann Walsh (Michael), Cynthia Joanne Gates (Lewis), Carma Maree Rowell (Tim); grandson Cody Michael Walsh and great grandson, Carson J.T. Walsh.

SKIDMORE – Joyce (Aaby), 76; born March 30, 1944, Walla Walla, Washington; died Feb. 12, 2021, Greenacres, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Bill; daughters, Kimberly Conner Burkholz, Kelly Conner, Karyn Conner; brother, Royal Aaby; sister, Janis Tucker and 2 grandchildren.

SMITH – Frances (Brown), 94; born Dec. 17, 1926, Rural Onslow County, North Carolina; died July 28, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Kenny, Ron; daughters, Barbara Houghton, Rita Barrett; 8 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

SPAULDING – Sarah E. (Shaw), 89; born Dec. 17, 1931, Long Creek, Oregon; died May 11, 2021, Sunriver, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Clair; sons, Britt, Culver, Oregon; Bill; daughter, Janet Spaulding; 5 grandchildren and 3-great grandchildren.

STANGLEWICZ – Caroline Edith (Johnson), 68; born Aug. 15, 1952, Portland, Oregon; died June 5, 2021, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Jim, Scotts; son, Brant; brothers, Norman, Mark; sisters, Diana (Johnson) Sosa, Brenda (Johnson) Siaw and 3 grandchildren.

STEFANI – Donald V., 48; born Oct. 20, 1971, Bellflower, California; died July 12, 2020, Hageman, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Elayne Stefani; daughters, Lucia Stefani, Haylee Stefani; and mother, Gloria Stefani. **STIRLING** – James Heber, 99; born Aug. 14, 1921, Los Angeles, California; died Dec. 12, 2020, Olalla, Washington. Surviving: 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 greatgrandchildren.

SUEOKA – Barbara (Gardner) Marshall Strawn, 85; born Oct. 17, 1935, Portland, Oregon; died March 13, 2021, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: sons, Michael Marshall, Max; sisters, Willetha Rayburn, Jacquie Riese; 9 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

THOMAS – Griffith Lloyd III, 85; born April 20, 1932, Prentice, Wisconsin; died Sept. 5, 2021, Moses Lake Washington. Surviving: sister, Mary Thomas Ross; daughters, Marcene Thomas, Delbe Meelhuysen, Jill Walcker; sons, Lloyd, Joseph, Hugh and 14 grandchildren and 12 greatgrandchildren.

THOMSEN – Russel John, 78; born Dec. 15, 1941, Chehalis, Washington; died July 27, 2020, Silverdale, Washington, Surviving: spouse, Tina (Johnson); sons, Randy, Greg; brother, Duan; sister, Barbara Specht and 3 grandchildren.

THORESEN – Laurel Avaley, 95; born May 6, 1926, Warburton, Victoria Australia; died June 7, 2021, Cairns, Australia. Surviving: Wayne Thoresen, Carole (Trombetta) Thoresen, Edwin Thoresen, David Thoresen, Diana Thoresen, Janelle (Thoresen) Dixon, Bill Dixon, Lisa (Thoresen) Heintz, Greg Naydiuk; 12 grandchildren and 10 greatgrandchildren.

TOMANKA – Shirley Ann (Smith), 84; born Sept. 23, 1936, Pierre, South Dakota; died March 29, 2021, St. Helens, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Charles; sons, Michael, Dennis; daughter, Kathy Meletis; 6 grandchildren, a stepgrandchild and a step-greatgrandchild.

TRETHEWEY – Jane, 92; born June 23, 1929, Glendale, Arizona; died July 7, 2021, Doty Washington. Surviving: Ralph (Susanne) Trethewey; Mark (Kerry) Trethewey; Ceil (Jeff) Van Campen; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

VAN DOREN – Paul Morris "Morrie," 88; born March 27, 1932, Wenatchee, Washington; died Oct. 28, 2020, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Marge (Baker); sons, Greg, Keith; daughter, Maureen Thompson; stepson, Randy Degner, Colville; stepdaughter, Gayla Shomler; 2 grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren, 6 greatgrandchildren and 2 stepgreat-grandchildren.

VAN TASSEL – Judith Marlene (Johnson), 68; born Sept. 30, 1952, Moses Lake, Washington; died April 16, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Lorance Karl; sons, Kevin, Monte; brothers, Jim, Jeff, Jerry, Joe and a grandchild.

WALLACE – Darl LeVon, 82; born Aug. 31, 1938, Milton-Freewater, Oregon; died July 16, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Corine (Bliss) Wallace; daughter, Cheri (Wallace) Berg; son, Stanley Wallace; sibling, Kirby Wallace; 3 grandchildren and one greatgrandchild.

WEBSTER – Jean (Sharp), 94; born June 27, 1927, Beemer, Nebraska; died June 28, 2021, Olympia, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Beth Jordan; Bonnie Fuller; 5 grandchildren and 6 greatgrandchildren.

WEST – Elizabeth "Betty Ann" (Nilsson), 91; born June 14, 1930, Denver, Colorado;

OUR FAMILY

died Sept. 21, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: son, Larry West; daughter, Lynelle (West) Hatton and 3 grandchildren.

WIEDEMANN-Guenter

Rudolf, 74; born Sept. 29, 1946, Bremen, Germany; died March 15, 2021, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Judy (Hamilton); son, Martin Wiedeman; daughter, Monica Blake; a grandchild and 3 stepgrandchildren.

WIGGET – Verda "Dollie" Lee, 85; born Jan. 13, 1936, Roseburg, Oregon; died April 11, 2021, Redlands, California. Surviving: son and daughter-in-law, Ernie and Cindy Wigget; daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie and Chuck Frederick, Susie and Jerry Piper, Cindy and David Hamel and 5 grandchildren.

WILL – Albert, 100; born Jan. 12, 1921, Fox Valley, Saskatchewan, Canada; died July 26, 2021, College Place, Washington. Surviving: sons, Gayle, Ron, Bob Will; daughters, Lynette Will

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Nov. 6–Local Church Budget; Nov. 13–World Budget (GC); Nov. 20–Local Church Budget; Nov. 27–Local Conference Advance; Dec. 4–Local Church Budget; Dec. 11–Adventist Community Services (NAD); Dec. 18–Local Church Budget; Dec. 25–Local Conference Advance.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT NWADVENTISTS.COM/EVENTS.

Michaluk, Lana Will; 10 grandchildren and 12 greatgrandchildren.

WILSON – Maurita "Mauri" Louise (Bassham), 76; born May 25, 1944, Denver, Colorado; died Dec. 12, 2020. Surviving: Shaun Wilson, Julz (Rockwell) Wilson, Christopher Wilson, Len Bassham, John and Marilyn Bassham, Cynthia Basshamm, Simon Vance and a grandchild.

WOOD – James (Jim) Harvey, 85; born Jan. 8, 1936, Ridgefield, Washington; died Aug. 29, 2021, Battle Ground, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Annetta (Roderick) Wood; daughter, Diane (Wood) Marshall; sons, Tracy, Duane, Jamie, Terry; 22 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

WOODRUFF – Ray Leo, 98; born Dec. 13, 1922, Tremont, Utah; died Feb. 19, 2021, Parkdale, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Wanda (Reiber); son, Kenneth Ray Woodruff; daughters, LuWanna Lentz, Gwyn Gate; 5 grandchildren,

family AT REST

5 great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

ZUMMACH – Paul Eugene, 93; born Aug. 8, 1927, Ortonville, Minnesota; died April 30, 2021, Wilsonville, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Audrey (Lehman); daughter and son-inlaw, Karen (Zummach) and Ed Strode; son and daughter-inlaw, John and Kori Zummachk; daughter, Kathy Zummach; grandson Kenneth Zummach and partner Kara Paolisso.

All family announcements are published online at NWAadventists.com/family. To submit family announcements, go to NWAdventists.com/contribute. To publish an expanded obituary with a short bio and photo, contact info@nwadventists.com or call 360-857-7200 for submission and cost information.

The North Pacific Union Gleaner accepts family listings as a service to members of Adventist churches in the Northwest. This information is not intended as an endorsement of any facts or relationships represented.

SEPT/OCT ISSUE

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP. MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

This Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation was filed on Oct. 14, 2021, with the U.S. Postal Service for the *Gleaner*, for publication number 0746-5874, a magazine owned and published by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. It is published 6 times a year at a subscription price of \$13.50. The following figures for the extent and nature of the circulation apply to the year ending with the Nov/Dec 2021 issue of the *Gleaner* and were printed in the Nov/Dec 2021 issue of this publication.

Total number of copies	37,690	37,736
Paid circulation mailed outside-county	37,456	37,502
Paid circulation mailed in-county	0	0
Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Total paid distribution	37,456	37,502
Free or nominal rate outside-county	134	134
Free or nominal rate in-county	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Free or nominal rate outside the mail	0	0
Total free or nominal rate distribution	134	134
Total distribution	37,590	37,636
Copies not distributed	100	100
Total	37,690	37,736
Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
Percent paid	99.64%	99.64%

YEAR AVERAGE

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UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, Nebraska, seeks candidates for a biomedical science faculty. Doctoral degree preferred, master's required. This person will teach courses in biology that may include general biology, immunology, histology and other courses. An interest in leading an undergraduate research team is preferred. See full job description at ucollege.edu/ **employment.** Contact Debbie Eno at debbie.eno@ucollege.edu for information.

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6100 O'Malley Rd. Anchorage, AK 99507-7200 907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org Kevin Miller, president; _____, v.p. secretariat; James W. Jensen, v.p. finance

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7777 W. Fairview Ave. Boise, ID 83704-8418 208-375-7524 • idahoadventist.org David Prest Jr., president; John Rogers, v.p. administration and finance

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32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S. Federal Way, WA 98001 253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org Doug Bing, president; Craig Cart, v.p. administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. finance

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021



Get Crafty and Give

Thanksgiving and Christmas are the perfect time to bring an extra smile to your neighbors or someone in your church family. The holidays can be a sad time for some people. Wouldn't you like to find a way to make a difference when they need it most?

These paper ornaments are an extra special way to share Jesus' love with people who need a little encouragement. All it takes is a little paper, staples and string or ribbon.

- » Always ask permission before you begin a craft project. Better yet, invite a grown up to join you!
- » Pick some colorful paper (Scrapbook paper works great. You can even recycle old Gleaners!).
- » Cut long strips about a half-inch thick. Be sure to ask and adult to find scissors that are safe for you to use.
- » Pick 6 strips of paper.
- $\,$ > Line up 2 of the strips of paper and cut off 1 to 1 $\!\!\!/_2$ inches from the end.
- $\,$ > Line up another 2 of the strips of paper and cut off 2 % to 3 inches from the end.
- » Put the longest strips of paper together. Put middle length strips of paper on the outside side of the longest strips of paper. Then put the shortest strips on the outside of the other strip of paper.
- » Make sure one end of all 6 strips of paper are lined up, then staple them together.
- Bend each strip of paper down so it meets the stapled end. This creates a heart shape.
- » Staple or tape all the ends together.
- » Add a loop of string or ribbon to the center of the heart for a hanger.



View the how-to video online at nwadvent.st/116-6-KIDS-00.

DESIREE LOCKWOOD Gleaner contributor





WISEMEN SEEK THE SAVIOR



Keeping Christ in Christmas



aving kids has made it difficult to avoid falling into the consumer trappings of Christmas. If I'm being honest, I can't really pin the blame on having kids.

I really do love the hours of shopping, the lists I can cross off, the wrapping paper, bows and giftgiving – I always have. But it's so easy to lose focus and forget why we're celebrating the holiday in the first place.

That old adage, "Jesus is the reason for the season," is as important now as it was when I first heard it as a child. I pray that I can do better with my children by continually showing them what the Christmas season is all about.

As my children are getting older, they want to see Christmas in action. They don't just want to read about Jesus coming to earth as a baby, they want to see Him making an impact in their life and in the lives of those around them. My kids love the Compassion Pop-Up events our local church hosts, so I'm thinking we all could use practical ideas to keep Christ in Christmas. Here are a few ideas we'll be trying:

» ADVENT CALENDAR

- Wrap up 25 Christian books for kids and open one each day in December until Christmas day. They can even be books that you own. You might even find books at your local library or church library that you can return after Christmas. Also, don't forget to visit your local Adventist Book Center.

» GIFTS FOR SERVICE WORKERS - Do you give

gifts to your delivery drivers, post office workers or garbage collectors? How about your local police or fire departments? These are all great people and places to give to during the Christmas season. Don't forget to include your kids in every stage of gift-giving.



AUTHOR LaVonne Long

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PERSPECTIVE

"That old adage, 'Jesus is the reason for the season,' is as important now as it was when I first heard it as a child."

» SERVE AT YOUR LOCAL HOMELESS SHELTER

- Socks, gloves, coats, diapers and food are greatly needed this time of year. Why not give where it's truly needed in your community? It's easy to call them up, ask about their current needs and then shop for and deliver the items as a family. » **DONATE TO A TOY DRIVE** - Many local stores and banks often have a toy drive this time of year. Kids love to shop for other boys and girls, especially if there is a wish list. Don't have a local toy drive near year? Start one in your church or school.

» BIBLE VERSE COUNT-DOWN CHAIN - Choose some favorite Bible verses about Christ and make a countdown paper chain craft. You can read a Bible verse each day in December leading up to Christmas. Let the

kids read the verse and then talk about what it means. Here three great verses I'm using:

- I want my kids to know Christ as their redeemer, so John 1:29 is a great verse. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).
- 2. I also want them to know Christ is awesome and that no matter what they may be going through, there is nothing too hard for Him. He is right there with them. "For nothing will be impossible with God," (Luke 1:37).
- 3. More than anything, I want my children to be grateful. Christmas has a way of making us want things and then feeling disappointed when we don't get them. Gratitude during the Christmas season and year round is such a great character trait to develop. "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15).

These are only a few ways to keep Christ in Christmas. I am certain there are many more. This holiday season, let's commit to keeping our eyes on Jesus and pray our children will learn to do the same through our example.

LAVONNE LONG Northwest Adventists family columnist

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NWADVENT.ST/116-6-POV-66

Whose Side is God On?

You can safely assume that you have created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do. - Anne Lamott



ne of the biggest problems in our culture is polarization.

We have formed tribal cliques based on the assumed rightness of our own opinions. The internet has allowed us to be more connected than any point in our history. But the age of Facebook and Twitter has left us more divided than ever! We form tribalistic cliques to call out the stupidity of the other side and find echo chambers to reinforce our own presuppositions.

Reading the online comments of any hot button issue proves that the division has risen to a barbaric fervor. People are judged based on their ideology. Opinions separate the good guys from the bad guys. But none of the bad guys ever seem to realize that they are on the wrong side.

Our disagreements aren't going away. The question for the church then is, 'how would God have us relate to those we disagree with?'

Whose side is God on in these culture wars? As we consider that,

we would do well to reflect on the words of Rabbi

Abraham Joshua Heschel who said, "Any god who is mine but not yours, any god concerned with me but not with you, is an idol."

The church needs to be iconoclastic with its love. It needs to break down the walls of division and engage those who think and act differently than we do. The church needs to be known for its love. We can't call ourselves Christians if we withhold our love to anyone. Jesus Himself said, "They will know you are Christians by your love." Our job is to love people, not change them. Saving people is God's job, not ours. But to love people we need to be with them in the messiness of the world.

In His longest recorded prayer in the Bible, Jesus makes this clear.

^T do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one." (John 17:15, ESV).

Jesus didn't pray for his disciples to be removed from the world. He didn't pray that they would immediately go to heaven with Him. Instead, He prayed that they would remain in the world. He gave His disciples a mission to engage the world with love.

Then He prayed for two things: truth and unity. Don't miss this point. Jesus doesn't want us to compromise the truth for the sake of unity. But neither does He want us to give up striving for unity because of the truth. Unity and truth are intended to complement each other, not be in competition. This isn't about uniformity of opinion. It's about living in harmony and love, despite differences we may have.

When I first read through the Old Testament stories, I would classify the characters into good guys and bad guys. Moses was the good guy and Pharaoh was the bad guy. David was the good guy and Goliath was the bad guy. The Israelites were God's people and the Philistines were the enemy. You get the idea.



PERSPECTIVE

"God doesn't have enemies. He only has people who are not yet His friends."

I thought in terms of us versus them. If I was on God's side, I was ok, I reasoned.

However, as I continued to read through the Bible, I learned that God didn't think about these things the same way that I did. I discovered that God doesn't see people as enemies. He is not tribalistic in that way.

The first story that caught my attention is found in Joshua 5:13-14:

¹³Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

¹⁴ "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."

This is significant. I thought Joshua was one of the "good guys" fighting for God's "chosen" team, the Israelites. And yet the commander of God's army doesn't show allegiance to Israel. When Joshua asked whose side He was on, He said, "neither."

The reason Israel was God's chosen people was not because they were special. God wanted to use Israel to bless all the other nations He also loved. Israel's mission was to recruit other nations to come to know God. Israel was successful when they were connected to God's mission. They were defeated when they lost sight of it.

This week, when you interact with someone with whom you disagree, pray for God's power to love them with the truth and unity Christ prayed for. If we can consistently do this, the polarization problem in the church will go away. It's not about believing exactly the same thing as everyone else. It's about showing love to others even in our differences. Love stands out in a polarized world.

God doesn't have enemies. He only has people who are not yet His friends. God is on the side of truth, love and unity. Unity and truth complement each other. The question isn't whose side is God on, the question is whose side are you on?

KEVIN MCGILL

Green Lake Church senior pastor

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ALWAYS THANKFUL

FROM WHERE I **Stand**



ears ago, I memorized Colossians, chapter 3. It's a rich chapter that speaks to so many parts of my Christian journey. I especially like what Paul wrote in verse 15. "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful" (Col. 3:15, ESV).

I recognize it isn't a cheery time for everyone, but I love Thanksgiving. I relish all the seasonal food and family time, not to mention once it's over, I get to stop hiding my decorations and finally dust off my Christmas playlists!

I like the idea of being thankful. However, if I'm honest, I'm not very consistent with it. My gratitude meter might peg 8.5 on Thanksgiving day, but the rest of the year it frequently dips to a solid 2 or 3.

We all know 2021 hasn't given us a ton of things to rejoice over. It's been a tumultuous ride for so many and it's easy to feel blue. But I'm slowly learning that thankfulness combats depression.

In an attempt to drill this life-truth into my head, I recently started looking in the Bible for people who exhibited

Jay Wintermeyer

thankfulness. As it turns out, I discovered

quite a few examples.

I was especially drawn to the apostle Paul, who consistently practiced thankfulness. He started out most of his letters to the early church by thanking his readers for their faith. "We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Col. 1:3, NLT).

My prayer for myself and for my church is that we may somehow shine the light of gratitude into the lives of those hurting around us.

Paul's example inspired and challenged me. He gave thanks, just because the people he was writing to existed. That made me stop and think. How conditional is my gratitude? Am I thankful for someone because they are alive and in my life? Or am I grateful for people because of what they do for me? Am I thankful

> today because I got a big bonus at work or because I have another day of life?

> Asking myself these hard questions is making it somewhat easier for me to be thankful – unconditionally. I'm learning that I can be grateful, even on the darkest of days.

This holiday season, as I'm practicing thankfulness, I want to be mindful of those who may be struggling to find the tiniest sliver of gratitude. This year, there will be empty places at thousands of tables in our communities across the

Northwest. Whether these lives were lost to COVID-19 or to other circumstances, my prayer for myself and for my church is that we may somehow shine the light of gratitude into the lives of those hurting around us. May we truly give people a reason to be thankful, not only for us, but for our loving God.

Father God, give us eyes to see those who need Your grace and joy.

JAY WINTERMEYER

North Pacific Union assistant to the president for communication and Gleaner editor

More online at + NWADVENT.ST/116-6-POV-01

Not everyone had to show up.

But you did. Again and again. Thank you.

Thank you to the associates and loved ones of Adventist Health Portland for giving your all to care for our patients and community. We are so grateful for you.



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